



Southampton Inclusion Partnership



Who are you & when did you graduate with SIP?

*Nicola Woolvine, I graduated in 2019.*

What was your route into teacher training?

*I gained my degree (Law LLB) in 1995 and went on to work for many years as a self-employed adult educator.*

*I taught courses throughout Hampshire for charities, job centres and children's centres. I also worked for a year as a Learning Support Assistant at a local Sixth Form College.*

*Throughout this time and whilst raising my 3 children I also studied further and gained a number of Diplomas. As my children became more independent I took the decision to do my teacher training and after having spent some time visiting local Special Schools decided that I wanted to specialise in SEN.*

Where have you worked since graduating and in what position?

*Since graduating I have been working as a class teacher at Rosewood Free School which is a school for pupils aged 2-19 years with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). I am now embarking on a further degree which will give me Specialist Teacher status: **PGDip - Mandatory Qualification for Teachers of Children and Young People with Multi-sensory Impairment.***

Why did you choose to study with us?

*Having made the decision to do my teacher training I went along to a 'Get into Teaching' evening at the Novotel Hotel in Southampton. It was at this event that I met Janina and her colleague from **SIP** and became inspired. We chatted and I had one of those 'light bulb' moments! I went on to visit a number of local Special Schools and decided that this was what I had been looking for and what I was meant to do!*

What 3 things would you recommend about SIP?

*Great support from everyone at **SIP**. There was always someone to call upon for support or advice.*

*It was a small group of fellow trainees and so we could get to know each other really well and form a wonderful support network.*

*The quality of the training we received weekly was brilliant. Specific, current, relevant and focussed.*



What advice would you give to a new trainee?

*Make sure you have the time and mental space to commit to such an intense year. I had to wait until my children were a little more independent before I could.*

*Start organised and remain that way. Different folders for different things and have a space where you can store all of your paperwork.*

*Form a WhatsApp group with the fellow trainees as soon as possible. They will become your friends and an invaluable source of support.*

What is your favourite memory of your training year?

*Meeting my group of peers every Friday. We shared how our weeks had been and offered and received advice. I have remained in contact with my group and have been out socially with them since we graduated. It is always great to hear how they are doing and share stories.*

Would you like to share any other thoughts?

*Training with **SIP** was one of the best decisions I have ever made. It has given me a career which I absolutely love. The children I get to teach are precious and the families I work with are amazing.*

Many thanks to Nicola for her continued contributions to the **Southampton Inclusion Partnership**.

