



## Profile: Keith Jewell



Keith Jewell is moving on after just over 4 years as Pastoral Care Worker (PCW) at Branksome Heath Middle School. He reflects on the role below:

When Danny phoned me 'out of the blue' in 2001 to first discuss the possibility of working as a PCW, I confess to being very cautious yet strangely drawn to the role. Looking back this was God's appointment for me. He has used it to change me and strengthen my heart for children and family life in general. It has been:

**A Privilege.** To be able daily to get alongside children and share in their tears and smiles whilst seeking to encourage, care for and support them has been an immense privilege. When so many children struggle with self-esteem and are bombarded with conflicting messages and difficult circumstances, it's great to be able to share God's love in very practical ways. Just to have the time to sit and listen and give that child the attention they deserve is priceless.

**A Challenge.** The loss of a parent, a broken home, bullying, anger, and a whole range of other issues come in through the school gate every day. Inevitably these will influence a child's whole outlook on school and life in general. Settling into a literacy lesson may be the last thing they want to do. Learning to try and respond positively to their anger and attitudes made for some very demanding days, but God has been my strength.

**A Window of opportunity.** The Lord Jesus challenged his followers to be salt and light and that means making somewhere different by being someone different. That difference only comes when we allow Jesus to work in us and through us. People WILL notice the difference. Each PCW has a God-given opportunity to demonstrate how being a Christian can impact the lives of children, families and staff for good and for God.

So that is my brief P-C-W of being a PCW. Do pray for each member of the team that they might know Patience, Compassion and Wisdom as they serve in this role. And if you feel 'strangely drawn' to this role, why not give Danny a ring (out of the blue!).

**Keith Jewell**

