

Kay Zahmoul

A loyal customer and home-educator



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Kay was born and raised in Newham. At the age of 6, she went with her sisters regularly to the local chip shop and came across the interesting displays next door on the Newham Bookshop's windows. Kay wasn't able to go inside the bookshop on numerous occasions, despite her persistence, because of her sisters' reluctance. She eventually succeeded in her quest and described the experience of going in the bookshop as mesmerising, just like walking into a book.

They were allowed to stay even if they were reading and looking at the books more often than buying them. It became a safe place where Kay went to read short stories and looked at the illustrations with no one bothering her.

In her adult life, she decided to home-school three of her four children from nursery to GCSE level. Newham Bookshop became her first calling point to get the English, Maths and Science books which would support her to teach her children.

Therefore, she spent a lot of time at the bookshop to get recommendations and advice. It was also an opportunity for her children to choose the books they were going to learn from. The reasons why Kay wanted to teach her children at home were because she noticed a rise in Islamophobia and racism in Newham following the 9/11 terrorist attacks and, herself not having had a positive experience of schooling as a child in the 1980s, she wanted to shield her children from going through similar negative experiences.