

Case Study

School statistics

Number of children: **210**
Number of teachers: **11** Including head
Number of classes: **8**



A shared ICT vision... for Kingsway Junior School, Watford

Under resourced, over extended

With only 15 non-networked PCs in a small computer suite and a few standalone devices around the school, Ros Taylor, headteacher at Kingsway Junior School Watford, knew she needed to extend the school's ICT capacity to be able to deliver the curriculum effectively.

A shared vision

"We looked at a variety of approaches, but felt that the best way to ensure best value was to work with an organisation who had proven themselves in a similar environment to ours" explains Ros. "I knew Jay Henderson, headteacher at Chaulden Junior School and based on his experience with Leverstock, he took us to see Hammond JMI School, another Leverstock client".

She explains "both schools were delighted with the work that Leverstock had done for them and talked in glowing terms about a company that shared their vision and had the expertise and passion to translate requirements into a working system".

The complete package

Kingsway decided on a solution from Leverstock. The package included 29 terminals for pupils, a teacher's PC, 2 library based terminals and 6 Interactive Whiteboards. More than just technology, the proposition from Leverstock also encompassed air conditioning, furniture, carpet, lighting and resiting the old equipment in classrooms, all networked, and re-establishing the new library.

"Other proposals we looked at were 'bitty' and as a busy education specialist, I didn't have the time or money to treat each of the infrastructure items as individual projects," explains Ros. "The Leverstock proposition was a complete package but with reviews and checks built into each stage".

The package was funded by money from the school budget as well as contributions from the School Association.

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Cross curriculum

The new equipment was installed and in use from early July 2005.

The pupils are using the equipment to follow the ICT curriculum, but they are also integrating it into other areas of the curriculum. "The Interactive Whiteboards are really motivational and grab the attention of even the most reticent child," Ros says.

She continues, "the use of these devices really enables us to firmly embed technology into all areas of teaching".

Widening the scope

Ros goes on, "we too are delighted with our new ICT environment. The technology is very effective for all our pupils, widening the scope for both teaching and learning and enables everyone to participate".

In addition to the educational benefits, the new technology has greatly lowered the demands of administration and reduced school paperwork. "Lesson plans are all on-line, stored in shared access files, enabling staff to work together more easily and in a highly efficient way," explains Ros. "In addition, they feel that they are enhancing their

own knowledge and careers through use of this state of the art resource".

The new technology hasn't even had its official launch yet, but already it's delivering results for the school.

Ros explains, "when parents come into school, they don't use the technology themselves, for security reasons, but when they come into class and see their children learning through the Whiteboard technology, they think it's fantastic and they are thrilled that their children have this advantage".

Protecting the future

It's early days, but the school already has big plans. This term, they will implement a security policy around access to the Internet via the Grid. And in the longer term, they plan to raise money for hand held computers and to provide remote access to the school network, from home, for teachers and pupils.

Ros says, "Leverstock lived up to their reputation and really bought into our vision as well". She concludes, "their references were excellent, their designs were better than others that we looked at, their project management was first class and the backup services were just what the school needed".



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