

# Case Study

## School statistics

Number of staff: 30

Number of classes: 11



# Making ICT part of everyday learning... at Milbourne Lodge Junior School

Enthusiasm and drive from Sarah Counter, Head of the Independent School, Milbourne Lodge Junior School in Surrey, has enabled Leverstock to implement an innovative new Learning Resource Centre (LRC) based around thin client technology.

The new centre means that not only does the school now have a superb ICT educational facility, but also the staff at the school have been able to embed ICT into the curriculum right across the board. "In day-to-day life, ICT is part of everything we do," says Sarah. "With the LRC, we can now reflect this in our children's education".

To facilitate ICT learning further, Jane Andrews was appointed as Learning Technology Enabler for the school. Jane says "obviously the children were very excited when the system first went in, but now the novelty has really worn off, they simply see the LRC as part of their everyday life".

## Learning about ICT and using ICT to learn

"The children's ICT lessons are split in two with the first half being ICT skills themselves and the second being another subject, using ICT as a learning resource."

Jane continues, "ICT is used in every year group. For example, our Nursery children might use a 'Clicker Grid' to develop mouse skills, followed by looking at mini-beasts under a microscope, utilising the Interactive Whiteboards to encourage focus and child participation. Higher up the school, children might study 'Round Houses' and then use the BBC website to download curriculum resources."

"The Interactive Whiteboards are invaluable. One of our staff members, with a considerable number of years experience, says that the LRC, combined with the Whiteboard interaction has enabled her class of four year olds to understand the concepts around accurate use of capital letters more quickly and effectively than she has ever seen before."

"Internet access in the facility is carefully controlled, using a 'secure pupil common access area' in combination with 'SurfControl software' installed and maintained by Leverstock."

"Since installing the LRC, children's skill sets have flourished". Jane says "today we are seeing work from four year olds that two years ago might have been produced by six or seven year olds."

## Enhancing social skills

The school runs a lunchtime ICT activity, where each year group can come and use the equipment to either continue what they were doing in class or explore other subjects. If the entire terminal population is not in use, pupils from other years can also attend. Jane stated that this results in the older children guiding younger ones and cross-year groups sharing knowledge. In this way the value of the LRC extends outside of standard curriculum learning and actually helps develop the children's social skills.

"In sharing lunchtime use of the systems, the LRC is promoting excellent social development as well as ICT skills"



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“The children are really proud of their facility”. Jane says, “It’s a pleasure to see them completely absorbed in this work and become so engrossed, that they don’t want to leave.”.

## Benefiting children and teaching alike

It is not only the children who are benefiting when the LRC was first installed, Milbourne Lodge had a wide range of ICT experience amongst the staff. Leverstock designed a personal training programme that enabled them to bridge the gap between teachers’ knowledge.

The LRC is such an integral part of school life that staff can be found doing their planning and reports, alongside children using the equipment at lunchtime. This adds to the natural adoption of the technology as a key tool by everyone in school.

## Working in partnership

Sarah Counter, the Head, says, “we have had an excellent relationship with Leverstock throughout our partnership. They have really taken the ethos of the school onboard and have adapted their approach as our experience and skillset has grown. The training was well planned and delivered. Now all staff are confident in their use of the technology and,

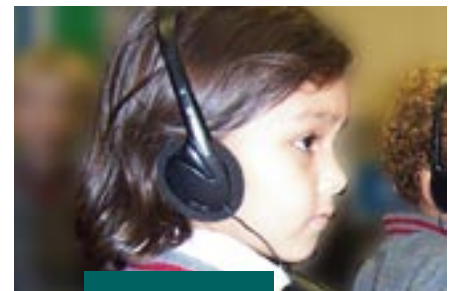
in addition, their increased skills have enhanced their own careers”.

High quality support from Leverstock is also key for the school. Sarah stated that the school has never incurred ‘educational downtime’ since the system went live which is quite an achievement.

The whole school learning has really been brought closer together by the way Leverstock set up the system. On the server, as well as the common pupil area mentioned above, there is a staff common area where teachers can share schemes of work, policy documents, websites and useful work sheets, quickly and easily.

This is clear when parents or other school visitors are hosted. Sarah says, “We recently ran a French Day and used the LRC as a language lab, with the support of a French speaking parent. She was truly amazed to see the integrated nature of the education the children were receiving, with pictures of paintings being downloaded from the internet displayed on Interactive Whiteboards and discussed in French. We regularly host visits from a range of organisations and other schools and the LRC is a key feature. It has enhanced the reputation of the school, opened up contact with outside agencies and forged relationships with other schools”.

Referring to financial aspects, Sarah Counter concludes “the system was up and running to plan and absolutely in line with the original quotation. Since installation, we have incurred almost no additional costs, other than where we have chosen to install further equipment. Put simply, the system works”.



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