

Case Study

School statistics

Number of children: **212**
Number of staff: 36
Number of classes: 8



A new 35-seat ICT suite ...at Hammond Primary School in Hemel Hempstead

Leverstock entirely designed, managed and installed a new 35-seat ICT suite at Hammond Primary School in Hemel Hempstead. The school is a Hertfordshire community nursery and primary school offering all ability educational provision for children aged 3-11 years.

The school's requirements

Gail Porterfield, the Headteacher, explains "I wanted to provide a state-of-the-art environment for our children, allowing for future growth and technological advance, maintain our school network of up to six PCs and a printer in every classroom, linked admin PCs, easy laptop access to the system, a link to our separate Nursery building, a reliable system and to ensure that we did not become dependent on one member of staff for maintenance".

"I had a clear vision of the learning environment I wanted to provide for our children. I investigated several options, ranging from trolleys of

laptops, to systems available from major companies. None fulfilled a sufficient number of my criteria. Most would sell kit, with little prospect of support in the future" said Gail.

"Then I came across Leverstock, who had installed an ICT suite in another local primary school. I visited, viewed, explored, spoke with Richard Clarke, Managing Director at Leverstock, and realized I had found a company whose staff shared my vision of what children deserve in ICT. Here was the expertise and passion to translate my requirements into a project plan" stated Gail.

"Leverstock were the only company who were prepared to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the requirements I had. Richard and his colleagues provided total system installation management - essential for me, as I could not leave my class or school management responsibilities to manage this project. They have the experience in setting up systems for

schools and could advise on everything from room design to setting up security levels for users. We have a relationship where options for future development can be discussed" says Gail.



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Solution

The installation of a new 35-seat suite based on thin client technology removes the need for individual PCs enabling the centralization of all applications. This has many benefits, not least the fact that software needs only to be installed once, to be available on all the terminals in the ICT suite. The incorporation of existing old classroom PCs into the network and converting them into thin client terminals removes the need for expensive replacements and enabled the same applications to be accessed in both the ICT suite and the classrooms. Hands-on training was an integral part of the project, ensuring that both teachers and pupils were comfortable with the new technology.

Gail Porterfield is absolutely delighted with the new ICT suite, named 'The Heywood Suite' after Anne Heywood, the then Deputy Headteacher at the school.

"The new installation more than fulfilled my expectations. All work was carried out on time with minimal disruption. We now have a wonderful ICT suite which is a pleasure for staff and pupils to work in. Choosing Leverstock as our provider of this complete solution has been a great decision!"

Since the installation of the suite Gail is continuing to work in partnership with Leverstock in an on-going programme to ensure that the teaching of all subjects takes advantage of the latest technological advances in ICT. This has included the installation of laptops and Interactive Whiteboards throughout the school. The school now has a wireless network giving total coverage throughout the school, its own e-mail system based on Microsoft Exchange Server and staff use iPAQs to work wherever they are.

Hammond School was amongst the first schools in Hertfordshire to be awarded the Naacemark quality assurance for ICT in Education. Gail adds "Leverstock helped make this award possible by providing a reliable state-of-the-art ICT platform and sharing our vision of excellence in ICT".



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