

Microsoft brings the future to Broadclyst Community Primary School

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Solution Overview

Customer Profile

Broadclyst Community Primary School, located six miles from Exeter in south-west England, was founded in 1810 and is the country's oldest primary school. It has 311 pupils.

Business Situation

- Increase collaborative and interactive learning
- Extend education from the traditional school day
- Embrace latest classroom technology

Solution

A network of 130+ PCs, of which 50 are concentrated in the year six classroom. This classroom also contains full multimedia facilities.

Benefits

- Enhanced collaborative learning
- Curriculum management
- Shared resources

Software and Services

- Microsoft® Class Server
- Microsoft® Windows® XP
- Microsoft® Office XP
- Microsoft® Exchange Server
- Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Server
- IIS
- ISA Server

Pupils at Broadclyst Community Primary School can access their work whenever and wherever they are using Microsoft® Class Server. The solution enables students to learn in a highly collaborative, multi-media environment where they can work closely together on projects and develop valuable technology skills for the future.

Background

Broadclyst Community Primary School, located about six miles from Exeter in south-west England, was founded in 1810 and is the country's oldest operating primary school. The state funded school is home to 311 pupils aged between five and 11 years old, catering to children of all learning abilities.

Determined to put the very latest technology at the disposal of its pupils, the school has implemented a network of over 130 PCs, with the classroom for year six pupils offering one PC per child. In other words, every pupil in this group uses a PC on a day-to-day basis in most lessons. Technology is an integral part of the teaching and learning programmes, not only within the school but within the homes of the Broadclyst community. ICT skills are fundamental to the success of all pupils and their continuing educational progress. The school's vision is one of complete inclusion – in particular ensuring that all pupils and families gain from the technology and learning revolution regardless of their income. The real benefit of Broadclyst's system is the way in which the teachers can use their software to encourage the pupils to collaborate and structure their learning.

Collaboration for Success

Schoolwork is assigned, distributed and collected automatically using Microsoft® Class Server. The software enables pupils and parents to view all submitted work for that year at a glance, including the marks and comments, along with current projects. The work can then be displayed on the whiteboard and discussed in class.

Each pupil's assessments are delivered via Class Server and are available online. The teacher and school can assess a pupil's performance and achievements against each aspect of the core curriculum. This in turn can be linked directly to planning - one of the critical elements of good professional practice. It also provides information about the student's learning gain over a set period of time.

Planning, target setting and measurement are done on-line using the Educator, a complimentary tool providing every pupil with an individual education plan. This gives them ownership of their own learning and means they have the opportunity to be successful regardless of their ability.

Teachers can organise lessons and plan content more effectively thanks to Class Server's Find a Learning Resource feature. This allows teachers to find and edit content from either the Internet or their school network. Once the material has been sourced, the Assignment

Manager feature allows teachers to create, manipulate and distribute assignments and assessments, manage student work and communicate with students and parents about ongoing progress.

“Microsoft Class Server essentially enables teachers to manage curriculum-based activities far more quickly and effectively than ever before,” says Jonathan Bishop, deputy headmaster. “You can design the activity and assign various tasks to pupils who can access all the information they need from their PCs.”

Innovative Ideas

All the school's PCs run Windows® XP and Office XP, giving the students new ways to express their creativity. Each pupil has their own e-mail address and Web page on which they can publish their work. Microsoft Outlook® and Microsoft Exchange Server enable them to share diaries and contacts, access discussion forums and organise tasks, as well as exchange ideas via e-mail and Instant Messenger. Exchange Instant Messenger encourages students to communicate with one-another and with teachers, and collaborate easily on work. Lessons are delivered on Microsoft PowerPoint® and pupils can add videos and images to their work, making it more interactive and enjoyable.

Students also use the reviewing tool in Microsoft Word to correct and comment on each other's work. Recently pupils created a school newspaper using Microsoft Publisher and were understandably proud of its high quality.

As well as focusing on pupils in the classroom, Class Server enables children to log on to the school's network remotely and securely. This is useful for homework, or for children on extended leave. They can send e-mails out of school hours using Outlook Web Access: a feature of Microsoft Exchange Server which gives users secure access to their e-mail, calendar, group scheduling and public folder information, through a Web browser. Pupils can work from home at any time of the day, and even during weekends and holidays, via personal computers linked securely with the school.

“When it comes to making the most of technology, the school has two clear goals in mind,” says Bishop. “We want to embrace the latest IT developments to enhance learning and education. At the same time we also want our pupils to leave Broadclyst with IT skills that will enable them to flourish in secondary education and beyond.”

“But whatever the use of technology – today or in the future” – Bishop continues “I still teach in exactly the same way. Technology has to enable and enhance learning. In the past we used slates, chalk and blackboards – today we are using interactive content, networks and e-mail. But the principles and philosophies in the classroom don't change. Communication and collaboration are everything – Microsoft products help us to do this far more effectively than before.”

For More Information

For more information about Microsoft products or services, call the Microsoft UK Education Contact Centre on 0870 60 70 800. To access information via the World Wide Web, go to:
<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/education>

For more information about Broadclyst Community Primary School visit the Web site at:
<http://www.bcps.org.uk>

For more information about 'The Educator' visit the Web site at <http://www.the-educator.co.uk>

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“Microsoft technologies allow us to think outwards, supporting us in our quest to find innovative ways of ensuring students acquire the skills that determine their continuing success. We are teaching our pupils to take their place in the society of the future – there is no point looking back to the past.”

Peter Hicks, Headmaster,
Broadclyst Community Primary
School