

## Sound & District Primary School

### Using iPad and Aruba to motivate staff and develop learning

When Sound & District Primary School decided to differentiate themselves from other schools in the area by rolling out a 1:1 iPad scheme, they knew two things: they'd need to get staff up to speed, and they'd need to increase their WiFi's capacity and coverage. Luckily, our e7 project and Aruba WiFi solution fit the bill perfectly...

#### Enabling staff to teach on real-world technology

In recent years, staff at Cheshire's Sound & District Primary School have found themselves teaching increasingly computer literate children, without the ability to bring that same technology into the classroom. "The school's IT wasn't allowing the children to use the technology that they were using at home," explained deputy head Kirsty Newton. "At home and out in the world, Apple technology is a massive part of people's lives, so the sooner the children can get to grips with it the better."

Having trialled other devices at her previous school, this time round Kirsty was keen to stick with iPad, and the school was soon enrolled on e7, our free 1:1 iPad trial.

"We had 19 iPad for the teachers, TAs and admin staff, because we wanted to give them all the chance to play around with iPad and see what they could do with it, what apps they could get, how they could integrate it into their role within the school." Staff were given the term to get to grips with their devices and discover for themselves how the technology could support their teaching goals.

#### Setting clear goals for the scheme

We always encourage schools who are thinking of trying a 1:1 scheme to have clear, measurable goals to help them gauge where iPad will be most useful. Kirsty and the staff at Sound & District were "mainly focused on phonics and writing, so one of our main goals was to try and build the children's enthusiasm for writing and phonics through the use of games and different media on iPad, and to try and raise our standard of writing."

At the start of the scheme, staff were given a full day's training by their local e7 manager ("If ever there are any questions we drop him a line and he nips in at lunchtime, and that's gone down really well with staff"), and then tasked with finding new ways to motivate pupils in phonics lessons. The school is also looking to improve peer and self-assessment, so "saw iPad as a great opportunity to be able to record progress, and to [help students] self assess and come back and change things, so they were those two avenues that we were really focusing on."

“There are times when the lesson goes off on a tangent or one of the children comes up with an idea, and you want to say to them 'go and find that out'. iPad gives you the opportunity to do that very quickly, and expand their learning experience more than you ever could before.”

**Kirsty Newton - deputy head, Sound & District Primary School**



Working with...



### In a nutshell...

#### Who are Sound & District Primary School?

A 118-strong primary school in Cheshire, Sound & District's staff deliver a broad and balanced curriculum designed to nurture every aspect of a child's development.

#### What did they need?

A robust, easy to manage WiFi network to support their 1:1 iPad rollout.

#### How did we help?

As well as providing Sound & District with iPad through our e7 scheme, we designed and installed an intelligent Aruba WiFi setup that delivered the coverage and capacity they needed.

#### What were the benefits?

- iPad has helped the school motivate staff and improve communication across school.
- Staff are using iPad features and apps to hit key development goals in phonics and self-assessment.
- Aruba has given the school increased capacity and coverage, meaning they can get the most out of their devices.
- Aruba uses the school's existing cabling and switches, so has helped them save on the cost of the rollout.

### Expanding pupils' learning experience

Although the student scheme is yet to launch across the whole school, Kirsty has already started seeing the benefits in her classroom. "We've been learning about Titanic, so they love the National Geographic's Building Titanic app. They used that to help them write instruction texts on how Titanic was built and the outcome from that was far better than I'd ever expected."

“Jigsaw24 did some whole school training with us before we got iPad, and our regional education manager has done quite a few drop-in sessions. If ever there's a problem we drop him a line and he nips in at lunchtime, and that's gone down well with staff.”

**Kirsty Newton - deputy head, Sound & District Primary School**

Apps on anatomy, the solar system and geography have all proved popular, as has instant feedback app Class Dojo. But the real benefit has been the ability to change tack in a lesson quickly and naturally. "There are times when you get into the lesson and the discussion goes off on a tangent or one of the children comes up with an idea, and you literally want to say to them 'go and find that out.' iPad gives you the opportunity to do that very quickly and expand their learning experience more than you ever could before." iPad is also helping the children understand that "if they're stuck, they're able to find their own ways around it. I think that's a massive thing, because it's building their learning resilience and their own independence."

### Building infrastructure to support the new devices

"Initially we were thinking we'd have two classes worth of iPad, and then we thought actually it'd be better to have the whole school using them," said Kirsty, "and there was going to be no way that the previous WiFi was going to cope with that."

In order to ensure they'd have the coverage and capacity they needed to make the most of their devices, Kirsty called our WiFi expert, Kris Bunting. "Kris came in and took care of it all," said Kirsty. "He did all the mapping of the hotspots we'd need [to cover the whole school], which areas could be better covered and which different WiFi solutions were available. He was fab!"

Kris advised the school to choose Aruba as a WiFi solution as it would be easy to manage (the school only has technical staff on site one day every two weeks) and meant that they could keep all their existing cabling – all they had to do was add intelligent access points in areas that they wanted to be covered, and then they could set permissions and filters using a central control console, saving them money on the rollout.

Another key feature was Aruba's intelligent client management, which meant that if a pupil moved from one classroom to another, they'd stay connected to the network and if one access point should break down, all the devices connected to it would be moved to working access points nearby.

### Using the new system to improve communication

Now that their new solution is in place, the school is bringing in a new pupil data tracking system that will help with assessment. "What iPad has brought to the staff is that when our new data system's up and running, we will be able to assess the children continually and update our system as we go along, so as you're working with a group you'd be able to tick off objectives achieved and continually update progress.

"Even communication in school is a lot easier when you've got your iPad out all the time and you can send off an email or link up diaries. Obviously we're still very early on, but the potential is vast."

**Want to know more about iPad and WiFi in your classroom? Get in touch on the details below.**

