



Lodge Hill Junior School

If there was a prize for sourcing school computer equipment by sheer grit, determination and imagination, Lodge Hill Junior School in Newport, Wales would certainly be up for nomination.

During the past 16 years, Roger Morgan - ICT Co-ordinator and one of 10 teachers at the school - has helped to grow the number of computers provided for pupils from 2 to 45. He has achieved this by appealing to local businesses and the University of Wales, Newport to donate surplus PCs, and has even organised a sponsored walk with the children to raise funds to purchase a new computer suite.

The Challenge:

With 210 pupils of varied backgrounds and abilities, Lodge Hill now boasts a pupil:PC ratio of just over 4:1. And each child has computer time scheduled into their timetable every morning and afternoon.

However, as Roger explains, achieving this status with minimal funding certainly hasn't been an easy task...

"With computers coming from such a wide selection of sources, there was no consistency in software or programming. Between them, our computers spoke three different languages! Trying to coordinate them all caused endless problems and resulted in hours spent reprogramming, rebooting and sorting out printer communication issues.

Technician visits were frequent and expensive, and teachers and pupils were wasting valuable learning time waiting for software to load."

The Solution:

Roger's technical support team - A2Z Computing, which works with some eleven other primary schools in the area - was all too familiar with the challenges faced by the school and recommended that Lodge Hill install Ranger Primary network management software.

Although this required an initial investment from the school, Mark Grist at A2Z Computing was confident that this cost would quickly be recouped through solving the issue of incompatibility, thus reducing the need for excessive technical support. As Mark explains:

"Simplicity is the key benefit for any school installing Ranger products. Ranger makes it possible to standardise an entire system, which subsequently enables teachers to work more efficiently and control usage by pupils."

Ranger Reseller: A2Z Computing Ltd

Software: Ranger Primary



Benefits to the school...

Roger explains the financial impact of trying to work with a non-standardised IT network:

“To help resolve the problems that emerged from working with so many different computers and hardware, we needed at least two technician visits a month. In addition, time that teachers should have been investing in planning classes and interacting with pupils was instead spent addressing computer problems. The installation of Ranger Primary has directly addressed these issues”.

- **Rapid return on investment and ongoing cost savings**

Ranger Primary has paid for itself in a short period of time and then continued to reduce costs. For example, by giving staff central control of the network, technician visits to Lodge Hill and their related costs have been halved and staff can use their time to work more efficiently.

- **Reduced environmental impact**

By activating Ranger React to turn off PCs at the end of the day, electricity costs have been significantly cut and the school's commitment to reducing its impact on the environment has been reinforced.

- **Frees up teaching time**

The ability to update new software across the entire suite, rather than on individual machines (enabled through Ranger Rollout), has been another major benefit. This saves service engineers from having to wait for programmes to load on each PC, freeing up their time to concentrate on class-related computer issues.

- **A familiar, yet controlled, IT experience**

Ranger facilitates the customisation of individual desktops yet retains a standard XP interface, so Lodge Hill pupils enjoy a familiar computing experience while teachers enjoy peace of mind in knowing that access and information is being safeguarded by Ranger.



Roger Morgan
Teacher & ICT Co-ordinator

Moving Forward...

Installing Ranger Primary has already simplified network management at Lodge Hill and reduced IT maintenance costs, but Roger is keen to keep the school moving forward. First on his hit list is tackling the issue of excessive printing costs. Enabling staff to forecast, control and account for printing across the network through Ranger Print Manager is the next step. As Roger explains:

“Having seen how quickly Ranger Primary paid for itself, I’m confident that installing further Ranger products will enhance the ICT service and offering at Lodge Hill Primary school and help to save money in the long run.”

“However, as with so many schools across the country, we don't have limitless funding and the initial investment required to benefit from those long-term savings still presents a major hurdle. So, it's time to dig out my hiking boots and start a sponsored walk for the Print Manager software!”

To find out more about how Ranger Software could benefit your school:

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