



Bottesford Infant School embraces new technology - Groupcall Emerge

Bottesford Infant School is located on the outskirts of Scunthorpe in North Lincolnshire. It is an average-sized community school catering for mixed pupils aged 5 to 7 with 211 pupils on roll. Their school is a popular and innovative school that loves to embrace new technology.

The ethos that their school is built around is 'tall oaks from little acorns grow' encouraging their children to grow in confidence, develop their independence and have real opportunities to flourish and reach their full potential.



Lesley Zetterstrom
Administration Officer

Bottesford prides itself in developing children academically, physically, emotionally and socially by providing excellent opportunities to learn. They have high expectations for all children to achieve aspirational goals and believe that every child deserves the best chance in life – so Bottesford is a great place to start!

Lesley Zetterstrom has been with Bottesford for 5 years as their Administration Officer and is currently studying for the Certificate in School Business Management.

Bottesford first heard about Groupcall Emerge via the North Lincolnshire Council's IT team. At the time, Emerge had just been launched and it was being demonstrated to any interested parties. Lesley says:

"As part of my role, I was asked to investigate the implementation of electronic class registers for our school. Following some detailed analysis, I calculated that a significant amount of teaching and learning time was lost through using manual registration processes.

We saw a demonstration of Groupcall Emerge and decided to agree to a 28-day trial within our school. Our internal IT team put in place the pre-requisites quickly. However, there was a slight delay for installation but this was due to a problem with our Local Authority IT infrastructure. Once this was resolved the process was very straight forward. Emerge was installed remotely and we had a member of our school's IT team on hand to help with any issues.

Due to the very user-friendly interface, I was able to train staff during quick, one-to-one sessions. I didn't feel it was necessary to distribute any training materials although these were available to us. I have since found them useful whilst familiarising myself with the product and they are good reference guides.

The installation was simple and I was able to install the app on all the other devices. An additional advantage was that all of our staff were already equipped with iPads."

Following the successful trial, the school purchased a site licence and Lesley continues, "the Groupcall team were very helpful and the process was completely seamless. Since installation I have needed to contact the Groupcall support team a couple of times and have been very pleased with their help and knowledge of our systems – in particular, Major Atwal, Groupcall's Support Manager, who was great.

I love the fact that the attendance codes are accessible immediately after registration has been taken. Our attendance officer can quickly recognise any causes for concern. I no longer have to duplicate my work by manually inputting the registration marks. All staff now have access to the application and therefore to pupil details – great for an emergency or following an incident.

By using Groupcall Emerge our teaching and learning time has been increased and the administration workload has certainly decreased. All around this is allowing our staff to work smarter.

Whilst using Emerge hasn't delivered any financial reward, the impact on the teaching and learning of the children at our school is significant. There has been a 60% reduction in the disrupted time caused to classes during the registration sessions. Groupcall state that you can take registration in around 35 seconds, instead of the usual 8 minutes – fact! No longer do we have children collecting and returning the paper registers to the office. They can get straight down to business and start to enjoy their learning. So in my opinion, Emerge is most certainly cost-effective. All of the staff are very pleased with the new system in place and are now using the app with confidence whilst starting to explore more of its functions."

Lesley concludes: "In my opinion, one of the best features of Emerge is the speed at which we can react to any attendance matters following registration. We haven't yet used the behaviour and achievement feature but I will be introducing this to the staff in future training.

Recently, we carried out our first evacuation drill since implementing the new system. All staff took their iPads with them to carry out a roll call, which was a great success. Also, having immediate access details about medication, allergies etc. is a great advantage to all staff.

In a nutshell, I can confirm that the success of using Groupcall Emerge really does speak for itself – more time for quality teaching and learning, better time management for the administration team and essential pupil details available at the touch of a button!"