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Dinnington Comprehensive School, Sheffield

Dinnington Comprehensive School was opened in 1935 and at that time consisted of just a single timber building divided into girls' and boys' departments. The secondary school based in Sheffield has considerably grown since then and now caters for around 1,400 learners aged between 11 and 18.

In 2005, Dinnington became a specialist school in Science and Engineering. The school is an ambitious, exciting and thriving school that seeks to drive its continued success upon the principal of 'One and All'. The school is committed to each and every individual and through their academic and personal growth the school gains its identity and achievement. They seek to create a vibrant learning community where young people can thrive and develop their personal and academic skills. The school aims to develop young people who are reflective, independent learners, ambitious and aspirational and who can go on to make a full and positive contribution in life.

COMPETING

Dinnington expects the highest standard of behaviour at all times and seeks to create an environment where students are safe, happy and able to take up the opportunities that a large secondary school can offer.

Steven Twiss MBCS has been with Dinnington School since 2002 as their ICT Systems Manager and explains how and why they chose to implement Groupcall Emerge in their school.

"We were looking for a solution to replace the SIMS offering for mobile registration which wasn't suitable for our needs so we contacted Groupcall to enquire about their Emerge product."

Groupcall Emerge is a powerful, yet intuitive app available for both Apple iOS and Android devices that enables schools to have an up-to-the-minute copy of their MIS (Management Information System) data instantly and securely available in the palm of their hand for access anytime, anywhere. Registration can be taken simply with Emerge and written directly back to the school's MIS along with behaviour and achievement information.

Steven continues, "We thought that Emerge looked like the perfect solution so we trialled the product in our school and we also ran a test over the holiday period to allow key staff to test the software on both iPad and iPod devices in order to see which was the most suitable device for the users.

We decided to purchase Emerge following the successful trial as it made the process of registration for our PE department so easy! Previously the registration was taken in paper form or on devices that then needed to be taken back into the site by 'runners' which was not always completed. The implementation of Emerge meant that taking registration and having the facility to look up important student details was made instant.

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After testing several options, the staff who used the devices on a daily basis found the ease of use provided by the Emerge app was the best fit for them. We are also looking to implement more Apple products in the school so the software being available on the iPad, iPod etc. was a additional bonus.

The implementation process of Emerge was smooth and professional and we were up and running in no time. The Groupcall team were helpful, thorough and clear with the communication between Groupcall and myself being very good before and during the server software installation.

Training is offered and carried out remotely with unlimited training being offered free as part of the subscription service. Emerge is really easy to use and self-explanatory so passing on information on how to use Emerge to the teaching staff was simple and they picked up the functions of the product with ease. As we had already moved the rest of the school over to electronic registration, the weak point was our PE department who did not have access to technology in order to carry out remote registration due to their physical location. However, Emerge has changed the goal posts and enabled even the most difficult and technically challenging locations to be able to register the pupils.

The feedback from all of our teachers who have tested and continued to the use Emerge are all saying the same things – "**Great**", "**At Last**" and "**We should have had something like this sooner**."

As Emerge saves time by enabling the staff to quickly register pupils then get on with the real reason they are there which is to teach and learn, this has improved the workload by minimising the administration overhead that teachers face.

Emerge also saves costs too! The process of registration without Emerge used to be very time consuming and as the old saying goes 'time is money'! Plus, being able to use the product in 'offline' mode is a great function as the Wi-Fi is limited in the area where the devices are used. So, the staff can decide where to register or find out information from Emerge if required in an emergency wherever they are! Having the ability for PE staff to be able to take remote registration while out on the field is the most invaluable scenario for our school."

Steven concludes: "Groupcall Emerge is a true success! For a long time, it has been a sticking point that we couldn't take remote registration electronically throughout the site and this meant that reporting and attendance figures were not always correct or up to date.

This has since been fixed with the advent of Emerge and the school are interested in expanding the tool to other areas of the site and also to the senior management team so they can obtain the data they need very quickly and easily whenever and wherever they are."

For further information on Groupcall's range of products, please call: 020 8502 7344, email: sales@groupcall.com or visit: www.groupcall.com