

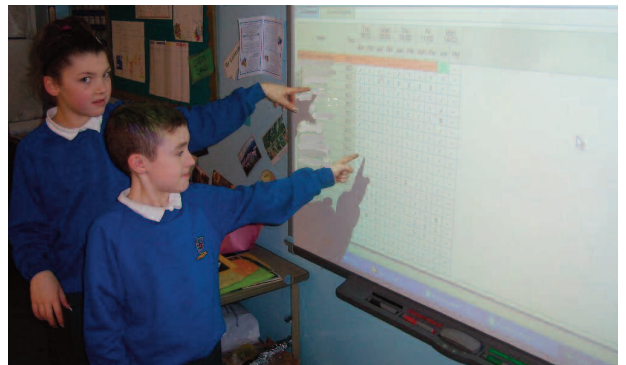


Flakefleet Primary School, Lancashire

Flakefleet Primary School caters for learners aged between 3 to 11 years and is located in the seaside town of Fleetwood in Lancashire, where the student population is 360. The school believes that a successful learning experience is achieved by engaging the individual with their school, education and by fostering strong parental interactions. The school aims to encourage qualities such as pride, determination and self-reliance in its students.

In 2007, Flakefleet Primary School had missed attendance targets for five to six years prior. A key action from the last Ofsted report stated "Improve the attendance of the small minority of persistent absentees to increase their rates of progress and so raise their attainment". The school set about meeting this challenge. It is now recognised as having the most improved attendance rate in the area. The school's Head Teacher, Mike Barnes has been with Flakefleet for 5 years and maintains that a contributing factor to the school's improvement is its use of Groupcall Xporter and in particular the implementation of Groupcall Messenger. Xporter provides authorities with an automated solution to securely collect data from schools or other institutions and deliver it to a chosen location. Messenger is a parental communication system which enables schools to send a text, email or voice message in any language to a parent or guardian's mobile phone or landlines, providing information regarding absences and general parental communications.

Mike explains how they came across Emerge and how it was implemented in his school. "We were one of the first schools in Lancashire to register our pupils electronically on the interactive whiteboard. This meant that the speed at which our school office received the information on attendance and who was in school was much faster than previously and we could contact the parents/guardians of any children where the reason for their absence was unknown.



However, we were looking for a solution to take registration remotely, away from the classroom. Having successfully implemented Groupcall's Messenger and Xporter products, we didn't hesitate in looking at Groupcall for their Emerge solution. We first saw Emerge demonstrated at BETT 2011 and thought this was the perfect solution for us.

After a successful trial of Emerge, we purchased a site licence and this coincided with the purchase of a number of iPads that we gave to our Senior Leadership Team as part of a larger ICT implementation programme.

We started using Emerge with iPods in the first few months but we now use iPads due to the larger screen size being a great advantage to the teachers using them.

The implementation of Emerge was simple and straightforward. The installation was done remotely and the support team were extremely supportive and very knowledgeable. They were also extremely patient to my endless questions and queries! Training is offered as part of Groupcall's service. However, the product is so simple and intuitive to use that minimal training is required.

Using Groupcall Messenger, a text message was sent out and we received the response direct to our office machines. However, whenever we had a fire drill, we had to have quite an elaborate system in place to check that all the children were out of the building. With Groupcall Emerge, the operation is far more efficient. When we have a fire drill, the teacher just takes their iPad out with them and checks the register. No need to collect registers, bits of paper etc. Plus, the information is written directly back to the MIS too so all manual work is removed saving valuable time throughout the school day.

Emerge is perfect especially for visits out of school where the register can be taken wherever you are. Teachers no longer have to carry round all the contact details and medical information with them. All the information they require is on their iPad! On a recent Musical evening at another school, a pupil failed to turn up. It was a simple matter of looking up the contact details of the pupil, contact the parents and in a very short space of time, the pupil joined the performance.

Due to Emerge integrating with Messenger, we also have the facility to send out text messages. A simple text message from Emerge can go directly to the parent about a pupil's work saying what a great morning they have had in Maths! A simple one-minute exercise that creates excellent relationships between school, parent and child. The opportunities are endless. Emerge now has the facility to take photographic and video evidence too so perfect for achievement and behaviour issues that can be written directly back to the MIS.



Our pupils love to see their attendance figures on the iPad and I do believe that using Emerge and all its aspects has again contributed to a huge improvement in attendance over this year.

With all attendance codes built into Emerge, it really does improve the workload of our staff as they don't need to look them up manually - Emerge does it all for you! Registers can be taken in half the time of traditional registers allowing the pupils and teachers to get on with the job in hand. With just a click of a button it is great to know that our attendance figures are with the school office and those who look after the pupil attendance.

The feedback from our staff has been great and they state that the time saved in teacher and office hours is huge! A report was given to the Governors of the school and they were very impressed by the use of Emerge and its savings on time as well as allowing more time to teach. With extremely fast access to data, you can see a contact address, contact, medical, timetable, behaviour, achievement data and attendance figures all at the touch of a button."

Mike concludes: "Emerge has revolutionised the way we take registers. It is really beneficial to the efficient running of the school with all information at your fingertips. I really think we would struggle without it now. Within the next 12 months we are moving away from PCs to becoming solely Apple based and with our MIS not compatible with Apple, Emerge will allow us to make the move within all areas of the school to a new systems solution which will give children and teachers the opportunities for digital learning using a media based curriculum.

Currently 6 classes use Emerge and soon all the 15 classes in school will use Emerge on their iPads to register, check addresses, contact parents, see attendance, minutes late, absence notes, assess timetables, achievement, behaviour and medical information - all at the touch of an icon!

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