



Harbour Primary and Nursery School

Grays Infant and Nursery plus Southdown Junior School amalgamated to become Harbour Primary and Nursery School in January 2013. Ofsted had placed Southdown in special measures, the Headteacher left and Christine Terrey who was the Headteacher of the infant school at the time was also asked to lead the junior school out of special measures. Christine led the school out of special measures within the year and stayed on as the Head teacher for the amalgamated school with 516 pupils. The school is based in East Sussex and is currently spread over two sites however building works are underway in order to bring both schools to one site.

In October 2013, the school was recognised for offering a high quality education during a National Conference held by the country's leading education charity 'Achievement for All 3As' and was awarded the Quality Lead Award. A great achievement for the school and testament to Christine's hard work, the award celebrates the excellent work being done by the school to ensure that vulnerable children and their families can achieve the best possible outcomes from their school.

Christine first saw Groupcall Emerge at a Capita SIMS partnership school conference and says: "I saw a demo of Emerge and liked it. So, we didn't bother with the trial that was offered and purchased a site licence along with 20 iPads." When the school opened, all the teachers were given iPads and Emerge was installed on all of them. Since then, iPads have also been supplied for the support staff.

"As a new school we really liked the idea of accessing SIMS on a mobile device wherever we were and whenever



required. Emerge is the perfect solution for us – we can see our attendance, achievement and behaviour information wherever we are which is particularly good when attending various meetings. Whether we are in a classroom on either site, the information is readily available and is literally (as Groupcall say) in the palm of your hand! Staff are able to see details of children and contact details along with medical information. We didn't want this service on a desktop PC – we wanted it mobile and that's what we've got!"

Christine continues: "The information is readily to hand and it is so fast - it's just there! Previously when we signed in to take registration it could take forever. Emerge simply asks you for a unique 4-digit code and it's opening up on your iPad, it's all there, it's great."



Christine Terrey - Headteacher

All registers are completed by using the Emerge app. The teachers find it simple, quick and easy to use and to navigate.

Christine finds the Headteacher functionality really useful and explains why. "As I attend many child protection meetings, I can immediately see a child's attendance data. The information is there at my fingertips and saves having to take lots of paperwork with me. It's also great for when I attend alliance meetings with other heads as I have my attendance figures to hand – it's also hugely beneficial for parent's evenings. Our school is in a disadvantaged area and attendance was a problem before. However, since using Emerge it's now great – data and knowledge is so helpful!" Harbour Primary and Nursery School found the installation process simple and straightforward. They are a large school and feel that Emerge is good value especially when used on over 20 iPads.



Training is offered as part of the subscription service and there is also online documentation. Following one quick training session at the start to ensure everyone knew how to use it, no further training was required as it is so straightforward and easy to use.

Christine continues, "We find the regular newsletters sent by email really interesting so we can keep up on the new features and releases as they become available. We are also considering their new product, the Emerge for Parents app where student information is automatically pushed directly to the parent's mobile phone – great for improving parental involvement.

I love the fact that as the school is currently a split site, registration has to take place in different areas and Emerge makes this so simple. One of the teachers said that it was really helpful for a fire drill that can be quite a hectic experience with bits of paper for taking registration. With Emerge, all the information literally is in your hand while you're trying to take registration in the playground.

We don't have to wait for registration anymore and it's great for school trips – no more pieces of paper and all contact details of the parents all readily available.

I can walk around the school and if I see a child doing something brilliantly I can add a photograph, video and information straight away. This works equally well for behaviour issues too if necessary. Using Emerge has had a huge impact on our attendance figures. Where we were in the bottom 10% of attendance in the country, we are now right on track - a great improvement in a year! It has also improved our workload as everything goes directly into SIMS where previously everything had to be entered from a piece of paper and people didn't always use SIMS correctly. Data is only handled once and not twice as it was before we started using Emerge."

Christine concludes: "Emerge is great for saving time and is very quick and simple to use. Everyone loves using it. I particularly like the Headteacher reports where I can see information instantly without having to go back to the office to ask. We also use Emerge to monitor detentions – it's so easy to see how many detentions have been given in that week, the week before and overall. The achievement functionality is used for weekly celebrations in assembly. Our pupils fill up their golden point cards and a certain number are rewarded with various items including pens, pencils etc. We have access to records instantly without having to check records manually.

In short, I really like seeing staff using SIMS through a mobile device. Emerge is quick, simple to use and cost-effective!"