



Education



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Nicky Gilhespy
School Business Manager

The Client

Riso printing helps school to change

Cheam Fields Primary School describes itself as a typical, normal school.

It is a local authority two-form entry community primary school, with a nursery, situated in pleasant surroundings to the north of Cheam Village. There are several parks and local shops, and the theme of community runs through all it does.

But, as with many schools up and down the country, it has changed. Not only through management, but also in how it presents itself through such things as branding and colour.

Without taking away the importance of excellent teaching, it is being run more and more in a business-like manner.

School business manager Nicky Gilhespy says: “Change has come from everyone. For some it has taken a while, and for others it is natural. But, culture change has been embraced by all.”

Change is more than just a buzzword for staff and pupils at Cheam Fields. The whole setting has undergone a change as it strives to improve all that it does so that its children can learn and succeed.

As more and more communications become digital, and learning heads towards new computer technology, change for the better is a part of school life.



All classrooms have either CTouch screens or interactive whiteboards. The school has a wireless network with netbook computers and iPads for the children to use for research and to enhance their knowledge of ICT.



The Challenge

And change couldn't have come soon enough when it came to printing. The school prints a lot of items. From compliments slips to booklets, to headed paper and other stationery.

In fact, it's a typical primary school, which on average produces anything between 350,000 and 500,000 copies/prints a year (a mixture of colour and black and white).

And while it is not an actual business, many of the print requirements come from documents that are found in use in the business environment - Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and PDF files for example.

Printing is particularly important within the reception class and nursery, where learning journals have to have photographic evidence. But, the basic photocopier Cheam Fields previously utilised couldn't print this type of work.

For these reasons, some of the printing had to be outsourced; there simply wasn't the opportunity to do it within school, let alone print with colour, which is so important as it helps to engage a child in learning.

Another reason for change was cost. When the school did printing, it would find that the costs of toner ink were always rising. The need to quite regularly replace cartridges was putting a burden on the budget.

The Solution

Cheam Fields Primary took on board the Riso solution with the goal to control the print production within the school. The school met with a Riso consultant who listened carefully to staff needs and created a full audit of print costs, print volumes, waste analysis and user behaviours.

The school then decided to remove seven of their existing desktop printers and centre all of their print volume to one cost-effective printing hub. The objective

of this plan was to provide print for the teachers with colour becoming a viable option and also to control the print out put where this was not possible before.

Nicky added: "Having the ComColor has made a huge difference to how we print and how we think about printing.

"In fact, we probably print three times as much as we used to for the same cost.

"We've been able to print more things in house and make sure that branding guidelines are adhered to. There's been so much more we can do, such as weekly colour newsletters certificates, stickers, workbooks and more."



Where the school was experiencing increasing printer costs in the past that were uncontrollable, they now have colour available to evolve the curriculum material and the ability to control and monitor usage all for a cheaper cost.

Cheam Fields is just of a growing number of primary schools that are examining their print requirements and reducing their costs - while at the same time continuously improving what they do.

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For more information please contact

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