

A Web 2.0 school where “digital native” students develop to their full potential with SMART products

International School SEK Ciudadcampo, Madrid/Spain



The first SMART Board® interactive whiteboard was installed in 1997, now all of the classrooms are equipped with one.

The first thing that catches your eye when you enter the school is a SMART Board® interactive whiteboard in the lobby that says “Welcome to the adventure of learning”. It is obvious that this is a school that is committed to the teaching of the 21st century. “Right from the beginning we want the students to know that they are the key figures in their learning process”, explains Maricruz Lagar, Principal of the school. “The main player in teaching is no longer the teacher, there has been a shift in roles whereby the teacher has become a learning mediator”. This declaration of principles places us in context: the SEK Educational Institution, which since 1892 has been a pioneer in teaching in Spain.

The incorporation of technology in the classroom began more than a decade ago and an important step was the installation of an interactive whiteboard. Since then they were progressively introduced in the school until there was a SMART Board interactive whiteboard in all of the classrooms. The teachers increased their use of the SMART Board interactive whiteboard when they saw the excellent results obtained by the students, and mostly after discovering the advantages when preparing their lessons and the possibilities of easily incorporating audiovisual resources thanks to SMART Notebook™ collaborative learning software, which enables the integration of audio, video, flash files, etc.

“We have improved the motivation and interest of the students as well as their linguistic and IT skills. But we have also improved the motivation of the teachers. Now they would not be able to teach without an SMART Board interactive whiteboard”, comments Maricruz. “The SMART Board has changed the mentality of the teaching staff and has given rise to an increase in teamwork between colleagues. Therefore, there is greater cohesion in the school and an increase in the exchanging of experiences.” This new teaching method has been implemented in all of the educational stages of the school: infants, primary, secondary and Spanish high school. Each of them has an ICT coordinator who designs specific projects for each stage. In the Kindergarten, for example, as well as SMART Board interactive whiteboards, the classrooms are equipped with the SMART Table® interactive learning center through which a specific project has been created with

Challenge

The school demanded digital solutions to be introduced within its classrooms in order to get that students learnt through new technologies and teachers use them to improve their lessons.

Solution

The classrooms were equipped according to the type of education. So, for early education a SMART Table was installed and for the rest of the levels comprehensive SMART solutions were introduced.

Result

Students have created their self-learning materials and teachers have found the mechanism to encourage students to learn in a dynamic and collaborative way.

the aim of reinforcing collaborative work. "Thanks to having worked for several years with the SMART content creation software, we are able to create our own contents," explains Mercedes Redondo, ICT coordinator for Kindergarten. "With the SMART Table we want students between 3 and 5 years of age to learn to reach agreements and solutions as a team. To do this we design activities that have several solutions and they have to find the correct one. If they do there is positive reinforcement."

José Castillo, ICT coordinator of the Primary School tells us that the school tries to test and use all available technological advances and incorporate them in the classroom as they are needed. At this level the SEK teachers work with SMART Classroom Suite™ interactive learning software which enables them to foster both autonomy and collaboration in their students' work. Furthermore, the primary and secondary schools are equipped with the SMART Document Camera™ which enable any object to be visualised on the SMART Board® interactive whiteboard, allowing interaction with it and the student response system. Through the SMART Response™ interactive response system, the SEK teachers can immediately assess the level of assimilation of the contents by the group and adapt their lessons accordingly. "We love trying out the latest SMART products" says José Castillo. "And being at the forefront in all technological aspects, although technology is a means not an end". With SMART Notebook™ Math Tools students work with equations, functions, graphs... directly on the SMART Board interactive whiteboard without the need for any other mathematical editor.

At SEK Ciudadcampo School students are motivated to generate their own materials. "The teachers design open educational units in which the participation of the students is fundamental", explains José. "We create exercises, many of which have not been solved. Through the participation of the students who come out to the SMART Board interactive whiteboard to complete the exercises with an opinion or with audiovisual material (which we can do on the spot), we create the educational unit for each group." In this way different units are created that improve the focus on diversity.

For the students the use of the SMART products represents a step forward as indicated by César and Mark, two Grade 6 students, for whom a classroom without a SMART Board interactive whiteboard would be unthinkable. "I like to learn like this because I can express myself through fantasy, it's like playing, I used to get bored before", says Mark. They also enjoy creating their own contents and sharing them with the rest of their classmates. "We also use the voting system", points out José. "The teacher throws out a question and through SMART Response we know whether students have been paying attention, what they have responded and at the end of the lesson we have results which enable us to reinforce them at home. How? It's easy, we send them the educational unit which we have just covered by email. Thanks to the SMART Notebook™ SE collaborative learning software, the students can see the contents created by the teacher at home, and generate their own research projects and take them back to the classroom in the SMART Notebook SE software bracelet, a USB key that's equipped with SMART Notebook SE software.

An important aspect in the teaching methodology of the school is the design and distribution of its classrooms, particularly at Secondary level, where they are open plan, separated by glass instead of walls and divided into several spaces. "This is the Intelligent Classroom", explains Teresa. "A form of active learning in which students participate creatively. Therefore we need large and differentiated spaces because we begin each educational unit with a presentation to the whole class through films, reports or documents to give a global view of the subject that we will be studying. Then the students carry out their own research based on guideline in the library area or on the computers, which they subsequently present on the interactive whiteboard and reinforcement groups with the teachers are created for those who do not reach the objectives. For all of this to be possible the distribution of the classroom is important." One of the keys to successfully using the technology is summarised by José Castillo: "we have always been careful not to consider the SMART Board interactive whiteboard as a projector. We want to construct the resources with the students so that they can be the generators of information. SMART Notebook software has played a fundamental role in achieving this".



SMART Table® in an Infant School class with 4-year old children.

"We are educating children that are different to those of a few years ago. They are digital natives for whom technology is an everyday tool. For them an interactive whiteboard is an ordinary element of the classroom that improves their motivation and interest".

Maricruz Lagar, Principal International SEK-Ciudadcampo School

About SMART

SMART Technologies is a leading provider of collaboration solutions that transform the way the world works and learns. We believe that collaboration and interaction should be easy. As the global leader in interactive whiteboards, we bring more than two decades of collaboration research and development to a broad range of easy-to-use, integrated solutions that free people from their desks and computer screens, so collaborating and learning with digital resources are more natural.

SMART Technologies

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