



Danesfield

Improving Learning Outcomes with SMART Response

Situation in the village of Williton, Somerset, Danesfield Church of England School is the only specialist middle school in its county. With around 420 pupils, the 9 – 13 Specialist Science School has enthusiastically embraced ICT and has installed SMART Board™ interactive whiteboards in every classroom.

Gregg Mockridge, Assistant Head Teacher, oversees the school's comprehensive training programme and observation schedule designed to ensure that all teachers are proficient users of the SMART Board and Notebook™ software - an easy-to-use application that enables teachers to create their own lesson resources. Gregg comments "Notebook software is central to our whole class teaching philosophy. It has changed the way our teachers understand how pupils learn. They are now more aware of the impact of personalised learning and can provide a whole range of learning experiences to best suit the needs of their pupils."

SMART Boards are having a positive impact on learning outcomes and classroom management. The enthusiasm for SMART Boards amongst staff is also reflected in pupil behaviour. Gregg explains "Because of the way the teachers use their SMART Boards, the pupils are more engaged in their lessons and we have minimum time-outs in the classroom. Such statistics reinforce how ICT really is helping schools to achieve greater success in the classroom."

Encouraged by these results, Gregg introduced SMART Response the interactive response system from SMART Technologies to encourage reflective learning amongst pupils and help teachers objectively assess pupil progress.

SMART story

Danesfield Church of England School

"SMART Response encourages reflective learning amongst pupils which is key to their learning development."

Gregg Mockridge,
Assistant Head Teacher



Quick facts

Location: Williton, Somerset

Student population: 420

Number of classrooms: 14

Technology: 14 SMART Boards,
3 SMART Response

Impact on learning: Steljes
Education Development
Consultants

Impact on learning:
Improvement in learning
outcomes

Extending the female voice in the
classroom

Encourages reflective learning.

"I compared other interactive voting systems in the market but none were better for functionality, ease of use and value for money than SMART Response."

Simply by pressing the appropriate button on the SMART Response handset, pupils can answer questions set by their teacher. Because it seamlessly integrates with Notebook software, teachers at Danesfield have incorporated it into their lesson plans, frequently using it as a "starter" to a lesson.

Katrina Avery, a teacher at Danesfield, often uses SMART Response during and at the end of a lesson to display three faces – happy, wobbly and sad. Katrina explains "The pupils vote to let me know how they have understood a concept or task without feeling embarrassed if they didn't understand it. This feedback helps me to direct the rest of the lesson or future lessons."

Used as a diagnostic tool, SMART Response has helped teachers eliminate common misunderstandings. For example in a mathematics lesson, pupils were asked the following question: $75 + ? = 100$. This highlighted a common misconception amongst many of the pupils with several answering '35'. When the pupils were asked to justify their answer considering those that had answered correctly; they were instantly aware of the mistake they had made. Gregg comments "This example shows that SMART Response enabled the pupils to gain a deeper level of understanding as opposed to making an assumption and sticking with it. The fact that individual pupils reported their assumption to the whole class enabled the teacher to ask them to reconsider their thinking process; ensuring that this type of mis-conception did not impact on future learning."

No more "invisible pupils"

Teachers noticed that female pupils did not want to put their hands up to answer a question even when they knew the answer, especially in Mathematics and Science classes. Using SMART Response this problem has now disappeared with everyone in the class participating in question and answer sessions. Senteo has extended the female voice in the classroom.

Katrina Avery, a teacher at Danesfield, comments "With SMART Response there are no more "invisible pupils". Every pupil is on an equal level. One of my pupils is on the autistic spectrum with language and communication problems. I had tried various teaching techniques to engage him but had little success. However since introducing SMART Response into lessons I have found a way for him to communicate. He now actively participates in lessons and is eager to learn."

Encouraging reflective learning

Danesfield School encourages reflective learning amongst its pupils and SMART Response has helped the school achieve this. "Pupils now think about the "how and why" rather than just learning by heart. They can understand what they do wrong in an activity. SMART Response encourages reflective learning which is key to their development. This way of learning is helping our pupils improve retention of lessons and in turn this is reflected in improved learning outcomes we are experiencing." comments Gregg.

Last year 20 out of 31 pupils in Year 7 Set 2 maths did not reach the required target. Since using SMART Response all but 2 of the 31 pupils from that same class met or even exceeded the required target. Gregg believes that "This improvement is down to using SMART Response. This type of statistic - where you have a like-for-like year-on-year comparison - really proves the power of SMART Response. It is more than an interactive voting system. It helps us gain a deeper insight into pupils understanding of a topic and provide a more personalised lesson to suit the needs of our pupils."

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