Case Study:
The Beeches Primary School

by David French, IT Leader

The Beeches Primary School is a larger than average multicultural primary school situated in Peterborough city centre. We now have over 600 pupils as our school grows year on year.

We're very proud of our school and the very hardworking children, staff and governors. We work extremely hard to welcome our new arrivals, many of whom are not only new to the country, but have never been to school before.

The staff's dedication and talent means that, whilst teaching the National Curriculum to age appropriate standards, teaching and learning is adapted to meet the needs of our children.

We also place a great deal of emphasis on the PSHE aspects of learning, providing a safe, secure environment for children to learn, play and flourish both at school and through our online platforms.

In the past 12 months (2016 to 2017) we've undertaken a significant change to our IT provision designed to make learning resources accessible anywhere, anytime on any device. We've transferred to a cloud-based system built around Microsoft Office 365 and, integral to this, is our use of Airhead.

Airhead provides staff with an easy-to-use platform to access a range of digital resources, including Microsoft Office 365 and virtual desktops, that improve teaching, learning and productivity. It allows staff to keep documents and teaching materials in one place that is accessible over the Internet in any location. It has allowed the school to move away from portable devices, which have a higher risk of being lost or damaged.

The most successful elements of Airhead that we are currently using are the 'flightdecks' created for pupils to use at home. Teachers and school staff can create a bank of resources (including videos and games) for pupils to use at home. Flightdecks provide a safe and purposeful platform to allow pupils to enhance their skills and learning beyond the classroom.

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