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Case Study

Montpelier Primary School

Montpelier is the largest primary school in Plymouth with approximately 630 pupils on roll. The building is large and mainly single story; this is spread across a large extensive site.

In order to facilitate better access to resources a new block was added to the school in 2010. This now acts as the schools main entrance and administration centre. With this move we were able to free up and develop existing central areas into a new purpose build library.

With a new library in place we felt the need to push for the use of a managed system, which would record where the library resources were at any given time and also who was reading what. The school bought into the Junior Librarian software nearly seven years ago due to its simple interface but detailed back end. With the push for further access anytime, anywhere, this centrally based, single user system was no longer appropriate.

After looking into what solutions were available on the market I was pleased to learn that there was now an online, hosted version of Junior Librarian. It was important for us to compare both the functionality and price of a variety of products before making our decision. After weighing up the possibilities, Junior Librarian.net came out on top.

The ease of use and freedom to access anytime anywhere, were features that attracted us towards this system. We also found the pricing structure was very competitive which in this climate was a very important consideration. The choice to either use a barcode for the children or biometric solution was a bonus. We felt that this gave us the choice to adapt and build a solution that fitted with our needs over time.

The sales process was very simple and straight forward with all the information required being provided. The contractual agreement was very lengthy which was at first daunting, however this was soon overcome. From the point that we decided to move forward with the system we were very well looked after with excellent support services ready to answer queries linked with installation and setup.



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The initial setup of the system was not difficult however this was confused at first with a very detailed and lengthy user manual. The manual is great in the sense that it covers each eventuality; however this does sometimes cause confusion.

Currently we do not integrate any other systems with Junior Librarian.net however we can, and do use data from our MIS to populate the user account database.

Support and backup for the system has been excellent. During the initial setup period there were some basic questions that needed to be answered. This was done quickly and efficiently with further follow up and reference via e-mail.

Now that the system is in place all stakeholders will benefit from its use. This ranges from pupils, teachers and administrators to those in our extended school community. The main benefit as with any electronic system is to be able to track. This tracking along with user input for reviews has made the system much more two way as apposed to a simple borrow and return program.

Overall the system is well thought through and well built. In comparison to other systems it appears to offer an excellent level of functionality with the added bonus of cataloguing other assets as well as books.

If another organisation were looking to implement a new system to manage resources I would certainly direct them to look into the benefits of using Junior Librarian.

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