

Case Study

Holmfirth Junior, Infant & Nursery School



West Yorkshire



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Dughall McCormick, Head of ICT, Holmfirth JIN School

Holmfirth Junior, Infant and Nursery (JIN) School in West Yorkshire recently teamed the interactive whiteboards in each of its 8 classrooms with an AVerMedia Vision 130 Visualiser.

Injecting new life into lessons, the combination quickly proved a huge hit among staff and children alike, who now use the technology to view everything from text and pictures to slugs and snails (though not puppy dogs' tails!)

Utilising a scanner to help children study textbooks and literature and to allow them to display, share and celebrate their drawn and written work with classmates, Holmfirth JIN School was already a firm advocate of display technology's power and motivational worth in the teaching environment.

So when using the scanner became laborious and time-consuming and the school was given the use of a visualiser, it was an instant hit.

The search soon began for versatile, inexpensive, robust visualisers for the remaining classrooms. And having scoured the Internet and January's BETT Show to that end, the school quickly identified the AVerVision 130 as the ideal solution.

“We found nothing that compared to AVerVision 130” says Dughall McCormick, Head of ICT at Holmfirth. “The gooseneck, image quality, simplicity of use and versatility were irresistible. We were also impressed by the professionalism and quality of advice.”

The visualiser's advantages over the scanner were immediate, he says:

- Instantaneous text and image 'capture' and presentation
- 'Real-time' picture streaming through the interactive whiteboard
- The ability to view/appraise 3-D items, multimedia and even 'wet' artwork
- The capacity to view and instantly zoom in on wildlife – especially 'minibeasts' like slugs, snails and beetles – in fine detail.

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Every classroom in the school – 8 classes from Nursery to Year 6 – now includes an AVerVision 130 in tandem with an interactive whiteboard. And while usage varies according to age-group, the combination has proven equally effective in teaching both older and younger classes.

“The visualisers have had a major impact on classroom sessions”, says McCormick. “Teachers can now display things – text, graphics, objects – quickly and easily for the entire class to view in detail. It’s also enabled teachers to innovate and enhance sessions with ad-hoc or pre-prepared materials. And the ability to present, annotate and save rapidly gives even greater breadth and depth to our whiteboard usage.”

Children have become more engaged in debates and other activities – even those at the back of the class – and the instant feedback and evaluation has led to further pupil focus, involvement and enthusiasm. They’ve even become pretty expert at using the technology themselves!

“The fact that children are able to see their own work displayed instantly for the whole class to view is an added incentive to meet lesson objectives, targets and produce their best.”

Common uses:

- Capturing children’s work (art, sewing, writing, sculpture) for annotation/appraisal
- Sharing of examples of excellence in whole-school assembly
- Sharing items brought in by children such as swimming certificates or photographs
- Demonstrating ‘fine’ techniques like sewing and knitting
- Displaying worksheets for talking through/annotating prior to completion
- Displaying work stimuli such as flowers, plants, animals and famous works of art
- As a webcam in conjunction with desktop video capture application.

The net result? “A bigger, more profound impact on teaching and learning that perhaps any other technological addition to the classroom”, and visualisers that have become so popular with the whole school that the staff are unanimously keen to assign budget to acquire further units.

“A source of ‘awe and wonder’ in the classroom” *said McCormick*