

Low-cost computing for education

St. Meriadoc School Sets Its Sights on the Becta ICT Mark

At St. Meriadoc C of E (VA) Nursery and Infant School based in Camborne, Cornwall, they pride themselves in “putting the child first” through their ‘Every Child Matters’ agenda. This mission statement is the foundation of their teaching philosophy and child development. The deputy headteacher wanted to use technology to create a more exciting, rewarding, and successful experience for their 176 children who range from 3-7 years old. The school registered for the Next Generation Learning Charter, a national accreditation scheme that recognizes achievements in using technology to deliver excellent teaching and learning.



With NComputing, St. Meriadoc can now introduce their students to technology at an early age.

Next Generation Learning

Becta (formerly known as the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency) has offered all English schools the opportunity to make a public commitment to providing better learning opportunities through the effective use of information and communications technology, referred to as the ICT mark. The Charter is a journey in four stages towards effective use of technology in schools. Achievement in their use of information and communication technology (ICT) across the whole school.

“Today children are more aware than ever before of the benefits of ICT, even those as young as 3 years old. Many of them play games on their PCs and game consoles at home, so technology is part of their lives. However, we have limited budgets and our current ICT system fell short on where we needed to be to progress toward the ICT Mark,” explained Mrs. Linda Stephens, Deputy Headteacher of St. Meriadoc School.

Environmentally Friendly, Cutting-Edge Solution Delivers Cost Savings Year After Year

As part of the review cycle St. Meriadoc enlisted the help of Glyn Pascoe from the Cornwall Council ICT Systems Support Team. “With the increasing costs of ICT and the ever-increasing demand on schools to offer further improved ICT provision, along with severe budget cuts in some of the smaller schools, schools are finding this difficult to maintain,” commented Mr. Pascoe.

Challenge

Achieve the Becta ICT Mark for technology leadership in the classroom while overcoming outdated IT hardware, increasing costs and budget constraints.

Solution

Deploy NComputing L-series virtual desktops to access online games, puzzles, and tasks.

Impact

Every child can now learn at their own pace without sharing a PC, while the school makes strides through the accreditation process.

Partner



Cornwall Council ICT Systems’ Support Team assisted St. Meriadoc with their installation.

With the budget at a premium, the initial outlay costs of new laptops or desktops was immediately removed from the equation, so Mr. Pascoe recommended the NComputing L-series virtual desktop solution to St. Meriadoc. The NComputing solution works because today's PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of applications only use a small fraction of the computer's capacity. NComputing's hardware and vSpace™ virtualization software tap into this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously shared by multiple students. Each pupil's monitor, keyboard, and mouse connect to the shared PC through a small and very durable NComputing access device. The access device itself has no CPU, memory, or moving parts—so it's rugged, reliable, and easy to deploy and maintain.

St Meriadoc was able to extend the use of their ICT budget by sharing the cost of a single PC among multiple students. Every student has their own keyboard, screen, settings, applications, and data files, so their experience is just like it would be if they were working at an independent PC. However, they simultaneously share common applications—including web browsers, office suites, SIMS .Net, SMART board tools, and multimedia.

"As a complete package, the NComputing solution minimizes the initial hardware costs and offers great benefits on the maintenance. Using this system we are able to provide excellent support as these devices are so easy to install, configure and troubleshoot compared to other solutions in the marketplace," explained Mr. Pascoe.

Learn to Love, Love to Learn

"Our school motto is 'Learn to Love, Love to Learn' so using technology in the classroom helps to make learning more fun for the children. It encourages them to interact and learn in different ways, enabling them to find a learning style that works for them at an early stage. I have no doubt that the NComputing solution has enhanced the learning experience for both the staff and the pupils at St. Meriadoc and we are now well equipped to progress towards the third stage of the Next Generation Learning charter—the prestigious ICT Mark Accreditation," concluded Mrs. Stephens.

"The NComputing solution has enhanced the teaching experience for both the staff and the pupils at St. Meriadoc."

Mrs. Linda Stephens
Deputy Headteacher
St. Meriadoc School



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