

Lexmark's printing devices have enabled Great Kingshill Combined School to save 15-20% on their printing costs and increase productivity levels

Lexmark helps Great Kingshill Combined School save time and money

The Organisation

Great Kingshill Combined School aims to create a caring, secure and stimulating environment in which all children are enabled to develop intellectually, spiritually, socially, morally and physically to gain an understanding of the diverse cultural society in which they live. The school has over 400 pupils, aged 4-11, and 50 full-time and part-time teachers.

The Challenge

Great Kingshill Combined School produces a variety of printed output, from letters to parents to prep for lessons to print outs in the classroom. Due to a reduction in their budget, the school was trying to find ways of doing more with less. Therefore, in order to help them to achieve this, they looked to replace their old HP and Dell printers with new, reliable and cost effective printing devices.

The printers that the school had were also from various manufacturers, so they had to order several different types of supplies – something that they were keen to simplify.

It was also becoming apparent that a need was growing for the teachers and pupils to be able to scan in documents and photos and make copies of pieces of work in the classroom. However, the only way that this could be done was for the teachers to go to the staff room to carry out these tasks as and when required. Understandably the time taken to do this had an impact on the productivity levels of the teachers.

The Solution

In October 2010, Great Kingshill Combined School chose Lexmark to completely revamp its print solutions outputs, with the clear objectives of reducing costs and increasing productivity. Lexmark was selected because the price of its print offerings was highly competitive and the company also helped the school with the installation of the devices and offered excellent after-sales support.

Lexmark installed one of its X945e colour laser multifunction printing devices in the school office to cater for the printing of administrative output,

“As a result of recent budget cuts, one of our key objectives was to reduce our print costs and we are very pleased that Lexmark has helped us to achieve a saving of 15-20% so far. The new products are also much more reliable than the old ones and this has helped to improve staff productivity. In addition, we have managed to reduce the number of pages that we print and recycle the empty ink cartridges, both of which have helped to lower our carbon footprint.”



– Roger Dodds,
Headmaster,
Great Kingshill Combined School

such as lesson handouts, internal exam papers, letters to parents, school notices, kitchen signage and daily lunch menus. The device can print, copy, scan, fax and email, and has been set up with pin codes for each department so that print costs can easily be attributed to the appropriate department and monitored. The Lexmark X945 can cover small to large



“In fact, I have been so impressed with the Lexmark products that I have bought a Pinnacle Pro901 for my office at home.”

– Roger Dodds,
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print volumes with ease. For even greater speed the school can also use a fast duplicator, if a very high number of copies are required.

Lexmark also installed one of its Pinnacle Pro901 all-in-one inkjet devices in each of the school's 14 classrooms. This allows both teachers and pupils to print on demand items such as additional handouts for the lesson, course work and photos. They can also print directly from the internet. A further Pinnacle Pro901 device was installed in the school secretary's office so she could have the ability to print documents securely, for example, cheques.

Lexmark has trained the school's IT manager on the new products and he in turn has trained the staff who are actually using the printing devices. In conjunction with the school, the company has also run a print awareness day and done an education piece on Lexmark's green credentials with the older pupils – for example, how to print responsibly and print less by using print preview and duplex mode, and how recycling and reducing waste can help lower the environmental impact.

The Results

The combination of these devices has enabled the school to reduce its print costs by 15-20%. The X945 has been set to print in mono by default to help keep print costs down, but can print in colour when more vivid or memorable print outs are required. Photos can also be printed in colour on the Pro901 in each classroom. The new products are also more energy efficient so that helps to reduce costs too.

The new devices have helped to streamline the workflow so that the school no longer sends every print job through the X945 in the main building. The IT manager has also set up the X945 to scan documents to a shared area on the network so as to make it a readily available resource for teachers and pupils alike. In addition, as the device is a networkable resource, it has been added to the wireless network so individuals no longer have to be restricted to a static workstation. Teachers are also saving time by being able to print, copy and scan in their classrooms instead of having to go the staffroom each time they need to carry out these tasks.

The older children (aged 7-11) can also print in class. The touch screen on the Pinnacle Pro901 is really intuitive and makes it easy for them to print project photos taken on one of the school's digital cameras. Plus they can photocopy work from their workbooks, especially artwork, and put it up on the wall and display boards, and post it onto a new website created by the IT manager. One pupil in Year 6 commented: “It's great to be able to print out my work and photos in the classroom and also scan in other pieces that I have created and save them or email them to my family and friends.” Scanning in and then emailing their work to themselves helps to preserve their work by keeping a record of it electronically.

Ordering inkjet and toner cartridges has become easier as the school now only has to order Lexmark consumables and no longer has to spend time online researching the consumable prices for several manufacturers. They are also looking to carry some stock so that they won't have to place so many orders and therefore will reduce the number of delivery charges which are incurred each time.

“From an education perspective, the touchscreen on the Lexmark Pinnacle Pro901 devices has made it really easy for the older pupils to learn how to use the inkjet devices in the classrooms and get the best out of them. The teaching staff can now print, scan and copy in the classrooms too, which saves them time as they do not have to go to the school office as often to perform these tasks – this means that they can spend even more of their time teaching the pupils.”

– Roger Dodds,
Headmaster,
Great Kingshill Combined School

Lexmark has helped the school to lower its carbon footprint by reducing the number of pages printed by 10% in the first six months, and aims to reduce the number of pages further still in the months and years to come.

Lexmark also collects the empty ink cartridges from the school on a regular basis and re-uses or recycles all of the materials, thus ensuring that nothing goes to landfill.

Looking ahead, Lexmark is also keen to work with an eTail partner to provide an online discount voucher scheme so teachers and parents can purchase Lexmark printers at a reduced price.