



UK primary school gives students an edge by pioneering the latest technologies

St John Fisher Catholic Primary School in Loughton, England, wanted to provide its students with access to engaging, up-to-date technology tools. It decided to deploy Windows 10 on July 29, 2015, the same day it was released to consumers, making the school one of the first in the country to use the new operating system. With a combination of Windows 10, cloud-based software, and updated hardware, St John Fisher is using technology to improve learning outcomes and IT budget planning.

St John Fisher Catholic
Primary School

www.st-johnfisher.essex.sch.uk

47 employees

England

Education





St John Fisher Catholic Primary School is a coeducation school in the district of Essex, England, for students four to eleven years old.

Identifying IT challenges

Located in the town of Loughton, Essex, just 12 miles northeast of central London, voluntary-aided St John Fisher Catholic Primary School is funded through the state and a private foundation. The school is committed to providing the highest possible standard of education for all its students.

St John Fisher faced two main IT challenges. First, its IT infrastructure was aging. The IT environment had grown organically over the years, culminating in a mixture of hardware and operating systems, including Windows XP and Windows 7. This resulted in an inconsistent user experience.

“Expensive computers were once reserved for high-end institutions, but these days that has changed. For the best educational experience, every student should have access to effective tools, and we want to make sure we are providing them,” says Jacqueline Richards, Headteacher at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School.

The second challenge faced by St John Fisher was a financial one. The school had a limited IT budget, which led it to take a reactive “break/fix” approach to its IT environment, only paying for maintenance as problems

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Headteacher, St John Fisher
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occurred. This method meant that the school's operational and capital costs were sporadic and difficult to predict.

The school's top priority was to improve student engagement and learning outcomes, and it believed that incorporating technology into everyday learning could significantly improve the chances of meeting that goal. St John Fisher was ready to invest in technology that would help meet its current and future needs.

Bringing a vision to life

To address these challenges, St John Fisher decided to work with Atlantec, a Microsoft Education Partner committed to helping academic institutions maximize their IT investments to support a more effective learning environment. Atlantec took a holistic approach to help St John Fisher define its vision for anytime, anywhere learning while examining ways that the school could save time and stay within its budget.

"In order to stabilize its budget, we knew it made sense to implement an as-a-service model," says Jean-Marc Pampellone, Managing Director at Atlantec. "Many schools are moving to a subscription-based model to help eliminate spikes in financial outlays, while still staying current with the latest technologies."

Harnessing the power of the cloud

St John Fisher started by deploying Windows 10 as its desktop operating system. Next, with expertise from Atlantec, it consolidated and virtualized the school

server estate on Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2. St John Fisher selected Microsoft SQL Server 2014 for database management, which it uses with the Capita School Information Management System (SIMS). Finally, the school adopted cloud-based Microsoft Intune for systems management and endpoint protection.



Microsoft Office 365 for Education is available to schools at no cost and forms a core component of the overall solution. With OneNote, Skype for Business Online, SharePoint Online, OneDrive, Yammer, and other collaboration tools such as Office Mix and Sway, St John Fisher equipped itself to take interactivity in the classroom to another level.

The school entered into a Microsoft Open Value Subscription Agreement for Education Solutions (OVS-ES), entitling it to always up-to-date Microsoft software, such as Office 2016. To further support students outside the classroom, the school can now offer the full desktop version of Office 2016 to every student to install and use at home.

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Managing Director,
Atlantec

Using cutting-edge technologies

Teachers often need to switch between numerous applications on their computers, which previously could be both confusing and cumbersome. With Windows 10, teachers can view multiple applications side by side with Windows Snap to create and organize distinct desktops in new, streamlined ways. For example, now teachers can designate a desktop for themselves and one for projecting to students in the front of the class.

Before moving to Windows 10, the school used several web browsers, which made using online applications inconsistent for users. The Microsoft Edge web browser, included in Windows 10, provides a reading view that eliminates images and advertising on the side of webpages that could distract students. But, although advertisers won't be reaching the students while they're in class, their teachers can draw and write on webpages directly within the browser using the inking platform DirectInk. With inking, teachers can make lessons more interactive and better engage students, and then share the webpage directly to OneNote to easily distribute it to the entire class.

Transforming the way students learn

To update its hardware, the school decided to provide HP Pro 612 tablets and HP Pro Tablet 10 EE devices to teachers and students. Atlantec obtained the devices through an HP Device-as-a-Service offering. The school pays a fixed amount every month for up-to-date devices, and every three years, the school will receive new hardware.

St John Fisher and Atlantec worked together to determine the best timeline to implement these solutions. Atlantec carried out all the IT project work during the school's summer break to minimize disruption to students and teaching staff. The Windows 10 deployment took place on July 29, 2015—the same day it was released to consumers—making St John Fisher one of the first UK schools to deploy Windows 10. “The Atlantec consultants are clearly experts in their field and carried out the IT transition on time and on budget,” says Simon Conrad, Deputy Headteacher at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School.

Hardware

[HP Pro 612 tablets](#)

[HP Pro Tablets 10 EE](#)

Product Solution Taxonomies

[Windows 10](#)

[Microsoft Office 365](#)

[Microsoft OneNote](#)

[Microsoft SharePoint Online](#)

[OneDrive](#)

[Skype for Business Online](#)

[Yammer](#)

[Microsoft Server Product Portfolio](#)

[Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2](#)

[Microsoft SQL Server 2014](#)

[Microsoft Intune](#)

St John Fisher has transformed its learning environment and is now proudly pioneering the latest technology with Windows 10 and Office 365 for anywhere, anytime learning. Since the deployment, Atlantec has continued to proactively monitor and support the school's IT environment to make sure that the system is continuing to perform as expected. The school has received consistently positive feedback from teachers and students alike.

Windows 10

Windows 10 is the best Windows ever. It combines what people like most about Windows 7 and 8 with great new features. It has a familiar look and feel, plus innovations in security, personalization, and productivity that work across your devices. The result is a rich experience that's quick to learn, easy to use, and great for doing the things that matter most to you.