



Hazelbury Infant School and Children's Centre

Based in North London, the school has in the region of 550 pupils aged up to 7 years old.

NCI became involved through the Belling Trust, which aims to assist primary schools through funding for ICT equipment.

The Situation

Hardware

The school had very limited ICT equipment. The majority of the teaching staff had laptops and some classrooms had PCs used for interactive whiteboards. An admin server was used for administration and some senior staff storage purposes only.

Power

Uniquely, this school had additional problems with power supply into the building. The power supply within Hazelbury School catered for only 25 PCs and 25 users, any more than that and they suffered constant power outages. Power supplies had issues maintaining constant supplies and the school's only option was to install additional power cables at a cost of at least £80,000.

Summary

Hazelbury School was suffering from extreme power issues, meaning that their ICT facilities were very limited as they could not draw in enough power to run the amount of PCs that they needed.

Our challenge was to provide a new installation of ICT learning equipment into all 17 classrooms and replace their existing, out-dated hardware in the ICT Suite.

The aim of the new ICT suite was to provide a ratio of one work station to one child, while keeping power consumption to a minimum.

Solutions:

- N-Computing Virtual Clients
- Microsoft Software
- Managed Backup & Disaster Recovery device
- Custom made ICT benching



The Solution

We recommended a state of the art, cost effective solution using the latest Microsoft products, N-Computing virtual clients and custom made ICT benching.

N-Computing devices

The solution designed and built by NCI catered for over 100 computer users without the need for any additional power lines whilst also improving the existing power problems. N-computing solutions share the power of one PC and allow multiple users to work simultaneously. We reduced the number of PCs needed, yet improved the availability of ICT within the school. Not only do N-computing solutions reduce initial costs considerably, the clients only draw in the region of 5 watts rather than a PC which would be in the hundreds. Utilising a virtual client solution has saved the school from spending a lot more than they needed to and offers a very effective long term, future proof solution.



Microsoft software

By using server and desktop software created by Microsoft and by partnering with other Microsoft partners on hardware solutions, NCI spent many months beta testing and combining software resources and created a solution from software and services including:

- Windows 7
- Server 2008
- Remote Desktop Services
- Hyper V
- Office 2010
- Windows Multipoint Server
- Internet Explorer 9





New ICT suite

Improving the ICT suite involved the removal of all ICT benching and hardware and the installation of bespoke "Pods". Due to the children at the school being so young, the requirement to keep the hardware and cables secured away from the children was paramount. Also being sited in London there was a potential security concern so they also had to be protected from the possibility of theft.

We provided design and manufacturing services for the ICT Pods in the ICT suite and 17 classrooms, which were tailored specifically for the school's needs. This is a huge advantage over buying catalogue solutions which are seldom satisfactory and expensive.



Backup & Disaster Recovery

A backup & disaster recovery (BDR) server was installed to ensure continuity in the event of a server failure and also ensures that all data is backed up.

The backups happen every 15 minutes with the data being encrypted for further security. Using a BDR minimises interruption from a server failure by restoring server operations in less than 1 hour.



Testimonial

“ ICT has become an essential element to teaching. Our ICT systems were out of date so we were looking for a solution to upgrade our entire ICT function and give ICT access to as many children as possible for minimal overheads. We also had an additional issue with power supply to the building.

NCI provided us with a solution that not only solved our electrical issues, but using the virtual machines, many children can now work simultaneously sharing the power from a single PC, which keeps our overall spend down and is also a more environmentally friendly solution.

We were extremely happy with the flexibility and support of the fantastic installation team! The install took place during term time so they were inundated with questions from teachers, all of which they happily answered!

Overall we are thrilled with the solution that NCI have provided and the on-going support that we receive. ”

Melanie Scull
Assistant Headteacher
Hazelbury Infant School



Benefits:

Total cost savings over £110,000

Reduced energy costs

Increased user numbers at significantly reduced costs

A reliable and easy to manage IT infrastructure

ICT can now be used in all aspects of the curriculum

Custom made pods allow the space of the ICT suite to be used to its full potential

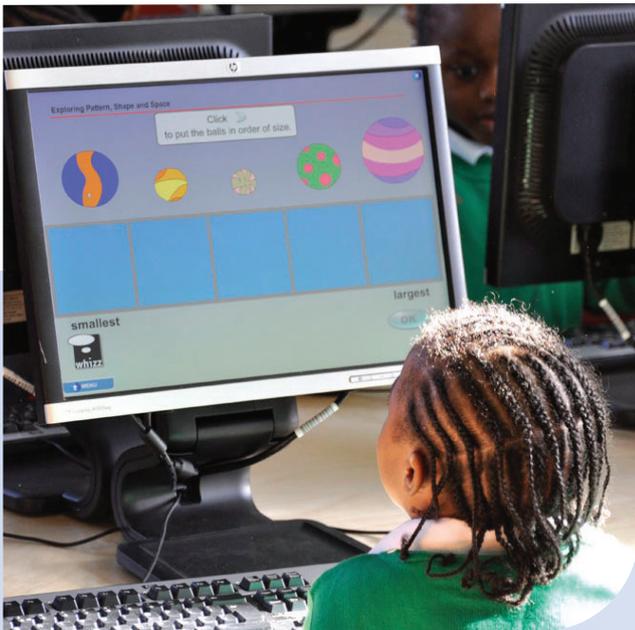
The BDR device means that data is backed up and secure

Hardware safely out of reach from children and secure



Going Forward

We will be supporting the school with a comprehensive back-up and recovery solution for the school server. It will now be simple and cost effective for the school to expand their ICT facilities using Microsoft remote desktop solutions and Microsoft server based software, allowing their ICT infrastructure to develop in line with any further expansion of the school.



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