

Green Lane Primary School

The Client Green Lane Primary School is a large Bradford Primary School with 650 students. The school opened its doors on 5th January 1903. It was a State of the Art School with a cookery centre, swimming baths and a laundry. The first Head of Green Lane was the father of the (later) famous writer and broadcaster J B Priestly.

At this time many people in Bradford were jobless and poor. The children were thin, hungry and sick. Fred Jowett persuaded Bradford Council to feed the children every day and in 1907 Green Lane became the first in the whole country to be subsidised by the rates to cook and send out meals to a number of schools in the area.

In the present day under the current Head, Kevin Holland, the school has achieved many awards including Healthy Schools, Investors in Pupils, the Drugs Charter and the NAACE Mark for ICT, subsequently converted into the ICT Mark. The most recent OFSTED Inspection confirmed what many know already: Green Lane, a very successful school, is outstanding in the welfare and care of its pupils.

A major feature of the school is a piece of artwork entitled '600'. It was created to celebrate the refurbishment and re-opening of the original kitchens and was a collaborative effort from the whole school community – a piece made up of 600 individual canvases, each painted by a member of that community, and facilitated by two professionals – an artist and a photographer. Prints of the artwork are now used as part of their portfolios!

The Need As ICT is so well established and so well used by staff and pupils, the school felt that their existing learning portal restricted their progress. Although their ICT infrastructure was more like that of a secondary school, their incredible use of ICT and multimedia meant that they were constantly struggling for storage space on the school network. They had a very clear idea of what they wanted from a Learning Platform. Keen to use industry standard technology, Kevin Holland and Gill Kicks (Assistant Head), started the search for a Microsoft SharePoint expert who would partner with them. This partner would be expected to share their vision and ambition and would work with them to develop a media rich, highly advanced learning portal to engage students, teachers and parents in order to raise attainment and encompass the 'Learning Anywhere' agenda. This led to the partnership with Core Education.

The Solution Working closely with the school, a bespoke portal solution based on Microsoft SharePoint has been developed and is constantly evolving. Very specific design work was required in order for the school to maintain their individuality and to enable them to engage not only teachers and students but parents and the wider community.

As part of the installation Core also designed, supplied and installed an enhanced data storage and backup solution to provide the school with additional storage capacity for content accessible through the new portal and to increase the overall storage capacity on the school's curriculum and admin networks. The solution comprised of a Storage Area Network (SAN) for online data and multiple Network Attached Storage (NAS) units for backup.

The Result The portal provides a vibrant communication tool encouraging the Parent Voice. The integration of SIMS WebParts within the portal enables all functionality to be available through a single login and enables the school to meet the 2012 (primary) Online Reporting Agenda now.