



Case Study

Soho Parish Primary School

Helping one school with the big – and little – things for remote teaching through the pandemic

Overview

With the Covid-19 pandemic affecting every walk of life, many schools in the UK looked to technology to help them continue teaching throughout lockdown – and to connect students and the wider school community.

This was no different for Soho Parish Primary School in central London, which worked with AdEPT to roll out Google's G Suite for Education, taking advantage of the funding available from the Department for Education.

What was different for the school was how seemingly-little features of the platform helped bring normality to a very abnormal situation, as we found out from headteacher Louise Ritchie.

Situation

“People often don't know we're here,” said Louise. “We're the only school in Soho – a small Victorian building, but with a big heart and an even bigger sense of community. We're right near the many theatres of the West End and, like the area, we have a strong leaning towards the arts.”

“As a small school with 140 pupils, we do a lot of fundraising – for example we raised £150,000 last year, including £45,000 through the Soho Food Feast,” added Louise. “We've also been fundraising to fill the funding gap caused by the pandemic – we do it **through Crowdfunder.**”

Louise is so impressed with the platform and its setup, she has one simple piece of advice for other schools considering using Google G Suite for Education: “It's much more useful than email. Do it.”

For Soho Parish, this meant a digital education platform had to not only help with teaching and learning, it had to work for the school's wider community and packed schedule too – and complement its big focus on mental health and wellbeing.

To get help with the technical side of remote teaching and learning, Louise turned to AdEPT. “We were already working with them, and using G Suite,” said Louise. “So it felt like a no-brainer to put the two things together to help us through the pandemic.”

“Nothing is ideal at the moment, but what I've really valued about working with AdEPT through this is the way the communications are all joined up. I always know I can go to the team and get a real human being, with a straight answer.”

Louise Ritchie **Soho Parish Primary School headteacher**



The solution



Soho Parish was already using a number of remote teaching tools, but conscious that lockdown could continue into the new academic year, the school decided to sign up for Google's G Suite for Education in preparation for September.

"AdEPT was already our technical support, and Sarah got in touch to say that DfE funding was available," said Louise. "I really appreciated her being on the ball like that, and within a couple of days we'd had a virtual meeting to discuss setting it all up."

"It was super easy – it took, at most, three weeks to set up – and any delay was down to us and the million and one competing demands at the time! And one thing that really helped was how AdEPT made it all work with our calendar."

"It seems like a little thing, but we use Google Calendar for so much – for curriculum planning, for timetabling and for our community activities. We live and die by it – so AdEPT helped us to make sure it worked with the new platform."

Beyond this particular feature, Louise and her staff were also impressed with how easily pupils took to the platform.

"Tom at AdEPT gave us our tutorial and has been on hand for support round the clock," said Louise. "And it really is about the little things – for example, I can see the children logging on, and that they're saying hello to teachers and each other. It fosters independence but at the same time is as close to a classroom as can be."

There were a few teething troubles – and as it's only October (2020), Louise and AdEPT both recognise there will be more learning ahead.

"We did find the video quality wasn't as good as what we were using before," said Louise. "But again, with Tom's help, we were able to fix this."

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To find out more about Soho Parish, visit:

<https://www.sohoparish.co.uk/>

– and to **support the school's fantastic fundraising initiatives, visit its Crowdfunder site here.**

Get in touch

For more information on any of our services or to talk about how we may be able to help you, please get in touch with us using the details below.



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