

Low-cost computing for education.

Learning gets a boost at Benchill Primary School

Challenge

Improve the ratio of PCs to pupils with green technology on a tight budget.

Solution

Multiply the power of donated PCs with NComputing X-series virtual desktop kits.

Results

With a computer-to-pupil ratio of 1:3, ICT is a part of daily classes.

The school has improved learning by increasing access to technology while saving money and adopting green technology.

Partner

Connecting Minds supplies 'green' technology at a fraction of the cost of traditional solutions, whilst helping break free from the financially crippling hardware and software upgrading cycle.


connecting minds
sustainable technology

Benchill Primary School in Manchester, UK has many pupils who perform below the national average for literacy and numeracy. The school is focused on accelerating their pupil's progress, and technology is key to the strategy. But budgets are tight, and even though Benchill received donated second-hand PCs, they were not enough to make a significant impact on learning. In fact, just keeping these machines in working order requires a dedicated technician, but the school can only afford a technician for one half-day per week, so reliability has been an ongoing problem.



The children are improving their numeracy skills.

The school's goal is a student-to-PC ratio of 1:3. But any technology they adopt must be affordable, easy to install, and reliable. Benchill also wants to be environmentally responsible, so the technology also has to reduce their carbon footprint.

More stations, going green

Benchill decided on the NComputing X-series virtual desktops to meet these challenges. The greenest computing solution on earth, the X-series lowers desktop computing costs, improves manageability, and reduces both energy consumption and e-waste.

“NComputing’s solution has transformed our ICT capabilities and has given many more pupils access to the accelerated learning programs.”

ALISTAIR BLACK
ICT COORDINATOR
BENCHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

The NComputing solution works because today’s PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of applications only use a small fraction of the computer’s capacity. NComputing’s hardware and vSpace™ virtualisation software taps into this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously shared by multiple pupils. Each pupil’s monitor, keyboard, and mouse connect to the shared PC through a small and very durable NComputing access device. The access device itself has no CPU, memory, or moving parts – so it’s rugged, reliable, and easy to deploy and maintain. By spreading out the cost of the shared computer, schools can provide up to five times the number of stations for the same money.

Everyone benefits

Students and teachers all benefit from more ubiquitous access to technology. Teachers use ICT in their core lessons, and over a hundred pupils now work independently to develop their computer skills and raise their literacy and numeracy levels.

“We are extremely impressed by the NComputing solution. It saves us 50% or more compared to the old model of just buying PCs, and that way we can have at least 6 computers in each classroom. Our power consumption has also been reduced by up to 90%,” states Alistair Black, ICT Coordinator at Benchill Primary School.

He adds, “We are proud that we have reached our goal. The school is well on the way to recognising the vision of the Headteacher, which is to make Benchill Primary School one of the leading primary schools within the Manchester area.”

