

Connecting technology and teaching: How Hitachi's interactive whiteboards are injecting a new enthusiasm into teaching at Danecourt Special School



“Since installing Hitachi's interactive whiteboards, we can use an increasing variety of teaching materials to deliver relevant, engaging lessons that encourage and inspire the children to learn. The interactive graphics and audio accompaniment are helping the children to make increasingly fast progress because they are learning from each other as they study.”



Kevin Ruddell, ICT Coordinator.

Danecourt is a school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and for those with more complex learning needs. Situated in an Education Action Zone (EAZ), the school has a wide catchment area that extends from Rochester and the Hoo Peninsula to Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey. The school offers all its pupils a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum including full entitlement to the National Curriculum. As part of the successful Gillingham Partnership, the school is committed to trying out new approaches and innovative activities that actively benefit the children.

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One of the core projects of the Gillingham Partnership -Excellence in Class - aims to enhance teaching and learning in literacy, numeracy and ICT. As part of the project, Danecourt wanted to install interactive whiteboards into the classroom to enhance the teaching methods already practiced and to provide visually and mentally stimulating lessons for all its pupils.

Setting the Scene

CDEC selected and installed Hitachi Software's interactive whiteboards into Danecourt Special School, in order to promote a fascination for learning and increase enthusiasm in lessons.

The Situation

Danecourt Special School is committed to raising achievement levels and encouraging interaction between pupils. In order to maximise and complement teaching methods at the school, Danecourt required a solution that injected a new enthusiasm for learning and assisted the teaching staff in holding the attention span of its pupils.

The Solution

Hitachi's Interactive whiteboards enabled teachers to command the class from the front of the room, whilst actively instigating interactivity between pupils and promoting concentration.

After careful evaluation, Danecourt Special School - in conjunction with the Gillingham Partnership - decided to install Hitachi's Interactive Whiteboards into its classrooms due to the durability and robustness of the board and the high quality of images that it produced.

Danecourt Special School opted to have the whiteboard attached onto the classroom wall, accompanied by a fixed, ceiling-mounted projector to minimize the time taken to set up a lesson and allow teachers to switch the computer on and start teaching at the click of a mouse.

Support from Hitachi was also a deciding factor in the school's choice - installation took just half a day without disruption to the running of the school, and the teachers were fully briefed on using the new technology so that lessons could be brought to life straight away.

Since the board was installed in September 2002, Danecourt Special School has been delivering stimulating, fully integrated lessons that hold the attention span and encourage the participation of the whole class. The school is now planning to install further boards into more of its classrooms.

"We very quickly recognised the immediate benefits of Hitachi's interactive whiteboards and the effect they would have on the learning environment at Danecourt. Promoting a fascination for learning and an enthusiasm for communication amongst pupils and staff alike is paramount to the school's success. Hitachi's interactive whiteboards are helping us to achieve these goals," said Kevin Ruddell the ICT

Coordinator at Danecourt Special School who has been teaching there for over five years.

John Somers, Deputy Head Teacher, concludes "We are delighted at the results we have already experienced through using Hitachi's interactive whiteboards. The children now actively take part in the lessons, controlling and manipulating objects on the board and interacting with each other and the teachers more so than ever before."

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