CASE STUDY

North West London Jewish School embraces digital transformation by replacing Smartboard and projectors with ViewSonic ViewBoard solution

About North West London Jewish School

North West London Jewish School combines a strong bond between Jewish education and the National Curriculum, aiming to give children the knowledge, understanding and life skills to help them flourish in the outside world. They believe in the fundamental ABCD of education: Academics, Behaviour, Creativity and Dialogue, which produces the ideal learning environment for their pupils. Their vision is for everyone to have a thirst for learning within a high quality, caring, inclusive school striving for excellence for all. Founded in 1945 for the Jewish Community in the area, North West is the school of choice for the local orthodox communities. Sylvester Saldanha, the IT Manager for the school, is responsible for the IT infrastructure and the smooth running of IT operations throughout the site.

About Stone Technologies

Stone Technologies assisted thousands of organisations in adapting and thriving in the ever-changing landscape of technology. Through deploying valuable technology, delivering personalised services and providing reliable IT support. They offer their own branded desktop, notebook and other IT devices, manufactured at their Stafford head office, where they also have purpose-built, fully secured ITAD and recycling facilities.

Their dedication has enabled them to become one of the UK’s (including Northern Ireland) leading suppliers for technology to the education and the public sector.

The Challenge

Before introducing the new hardware, the North West London Jewish School deployed several SmartBoards and projectors in every classroom around five years ago. However, the ageing units became more and more problematic and causing daily issues, which were affecting classroom efficiency.

Issues varied from hardware failure to connectivity issues, where teachers did not know which extension to select to display their content, causing delays in starting lessons. Moreover, as the corners of the old boards can gather dust, pens could not function correctly as the sensors are blocked. According to Sylvester Saldanha, the IT Manager for the school, the worst thing about the old devices are they needed syncing daily to overcome connectivity issues. Sylvester explains:

“Each morning, the smartboards had to be recalibrated, which meant that teachers could not start their day on time, which impacted on the pupils’ learning. In addition to recalibrating the smartboards, dust also created an issue where the pens would not work effectively. We had to clean all the smartboards daily to ensure they would work. The projectors caused us ongoing problems where we had to replace the bulbs which weren’t cost-effective for us constantly.”

Front cover image of the case study document.
The Solution

Sylvester contacted Stone to discuss their options and decided the 75” and 65” ViewSonic ViewBoard 4K interactive displays and projectors were the best solutions to deploy in the school. They also opted for the ViewSonic myViewBoard digital whiteboard software, which most teachers in the school now use thanks to its user-friendly interface. Moreover, the ability to log in from any classroom provided the convenience that the teachers did not have previously.

“Our Stone Sales Manager communicated with us every step of the way, keeping me updated from start to end providing quotes, answering queries and assisting with the procurement process. She even replied to me the same day, which made the overall experience with Stone that much easier.”

The main reason for choosing ViewSonic was the simplicity of the ViewBoard interactive displays. The software was also easy to use and navigate. Before purchasing, the North West School received demo products of the interactive displays and projectors, allowing teachers to test the new equipment and its latest functionalities. This part proved to be pivotal in the decision making as the school wanted to introduce a hardware and software solution that allowed teachers to adapt comfortably.

Teachers were impressed they could easily log in from various classrooms quickly, saving time at the start of their day. Connectivity was also seamless as Teachers did not have to log into their computers to use the ViewBoard interactive displays. All they had to do was press the power button on the interactive displays, and the teachers were ready to teach instantly.

Furthermore, the ViewBoard interactive displays are Windows compatible, which allowed the teacher to connect their laptops/devices wired or wirelessly, and switch to different screens in different classrooms seamlessly. With this feature, teachers can now present content to the class within seconds, making resource sharing much easier. They also have a further option to connect via USB if required, providing multiple connectivities options to make teachers lives easier.

Stone delivered the central hardware installation, set up, and supported North West School during the whole process. Questions were answered, and solutions were provided promptly by all parties to make sure everything was moving smoothly. ViewSonic provided training and support for myViewBoard digital whiteboard software to the school remotely due to covid-19 restrictions but was available to assist with operational queries when they arose.

The training sessions were recorded and stored on the cloud, allowing teachers to access it anytime when needed. Further resource videos were also accessible 24/7, and support was available from ViewSonic throughout and after the installation to help resolve any issues, should they occur.

The Result

“The greatest benefit is that there is no longer the need to recalibrate the smartboards every day. They work excellently in all classrooms, and the 75” displays are a good size for the whole class. They are easy for teachers to use; all it takes is pressing the power button and the ViewBoard interactive display power instantly without the need to switch on their computers. There are also no ongoing maintenance issues, such as replacing bulbs and cleaning the corners. They’re working perfectly for our teachers.”

The North West School now experience the ease of daily use without the need to recalibrate and delay the start of their day. Pupils also find them easy to use, which makes learning fun and interactive. With teachers’ resources and documents on the cloud, they can access them quickly across the entire school. The easy-to-use software also works effectively, as pupils can interact with their work in ways they could not before the installation.

The overall cost of maintenance has been significantly reduced, as North West School no longer need to replace the bulbs for the projectors; which periodically led to decommissioning the projectors ‘out of use’ while they waited for replacement bulbs to arrive.

“Overall, we are very satisfied with the displays and the installation from Stone and ViewSonic. Initially, we did experience an issue with one of the boards two weeks after install; it would not start. However, it was replaced with a new ViewBoard within two weeks, and the issue was resolved. We were satisfied with the outcome.”

It’s safe to say the staff and pupils love the new ViewBoards. The overall experience was much smoother than the last installation of smartboards for North West London Jewish School.

For more information on ViewSonic’s Visual Solutions, please visit: https://www.viewsonic.com/uk

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