

Education Customer Story

Flexibility and ease of use top the class



Management Need

Cracking down on printer costs and moving to a user-pays, administration free system was on the cards at Minehead Middle School. Its existing print management software was in need of an overhaul to keep up to date with new technology.

The Solution

After consulting with several other schools, Minehead implemented PaperCut MF across the entire campus during the students' summer vacation. By the time they arrived back, a fully-featured print management system was in place. Students are now given quotas for printing material, and the IT team at Minehead is able to adjust and monitor how much printing is happening across the network – making it even easier to manage costs.

Result

Apart from reducing student printing by 90%, PaperCut MF has controlled printing across the network. The school is now experimenting with features that can easily be added to the existing infrastructure, including user prompts during the printing process for more tightly controlled processes.

IT Manager, Tony Ayre on PaperCut MF:
"After the implementation, student printing dropped by a massive 90%."



Customer Profile

Minehead Middle School

Country UK

Staff 100

Students 600

Website

mineheadmiddle.somerset.sch.uk

The Minehead Middle School has a history dating back to 1929, operating previously as a grammar school and general secondary school. In 1971 it evolved to its current form as a middle school, and now educates 600 students aged 9-13 and employs more than 100 staff.



Configuration

Product PaperCut MF

Grayscale Printers 7

Color Printers 15

Primary Servers 1

Workstations Windows

Set and forget

"We can safely just leave it to do its job and not have to worry about running up massive printing bills," said IT Manager, Tony Ayre.

Upgrades demand a new strategy

Upgrading technology can be a bittersweet process. The upside is finally gaining access to better tools that can improve productivity, but it also means updating software and other programs as well. This is exactly the situation Minehead Middle School found itself in when upgrading its fleet of copiers to Ricoh multifunction printers.

Unfortunately, the school's print management solution couldn't integrate with the new devices. At the same time, the school also knew it needed to start cutting down on printing costs, with students and staff having no restrictions on anything they were allowed to print.

It was time for a change. Ayre started searching for a new system that could integrate with the new fleet of printers, the mandatories were to:

- ▶ Control how much students and staff were allowed to print.
- ▶ Place restrictions on what material could be printed.
- ▶ Top-up payment cards with minimal management.

A customizable solution

Minehead Middle School sought recommendations from other schools as part of its research into suitable print management solutions. PaperCut's reputation, combined with the ease of use and flexibility experienced while using the fully functional trial software, convinced Ayre that it was the right product for the school.

The school completed a full roll out of PaperCut MF over the summer vacation. It easily replicated its existing print policies, which include rules such as:

- ▶ Restricting student printing to five pages per job: a maximum file length of five pages or five copies of a single page.
- ▶ Ensuring documents have titles, to give an indication of what's being printed (requests to print documents with titles such as Document1 are denied).

Students and staff were also given quotas for the number of prints per week or month. To save on toner, students were limited to black and white only, while staff could print up to 20 color pages per month.

"PaperCut MF's ease of use, mixed with its powerful scripting and filtering systems – and combined with its many varied reports – make it our ideal print management solution," said Ayre.

A new direction provides answers

Since introducing PaperCut MF, student printing has reduced by a massive 90%, and overall printing across the school by one sixth. Print volumes are much more tightly controlled, and staff and students understand their available quotas and the processes to follow if they have legitimate needs for additional printing.

"IT staff appreciate the 'set and forget' nature of day-to-day print management, trusting PaperCut MF to do the job," Ayre said. "Embedded PaperCut MF software on the Ricoh multifunction printers is intuitive and easy to use."

Staff and students interact with the PaperCut MF client software installed on their Windows computers. It provides easy access to quota information and enforces cost effective printing based on type and volume. This allows students to get on with their day, without involvement from the IT team any time printing needs to be done, or users need to top-up their cards.

To find out how to reduce IT time on print management, email or visit

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