



Forest Academy

Case study Prowise Learn

Prowise



About Forest Academy

Forest Academy is a two-form entry school in Croydon, London. The children come from economically and socially challenging backgrounds and there is a high percentage of EAL (English as an Additional Language) children. The staff at Forest Academy are dedicated to providing a stimulating, exciting environment where every student feels valued and safe. All children should be able to reach their full potential.

Recently the academy transferred to Prowise Learn to be able to offer adaptive practice material.

The switch to Prowise Learn

Brian Byrne, Year 4 teacher at Forest Academy, heard about Prowise Learn for the first time during BETT 2019. They already had Prowise touchscreens and were curious about the software packages that Prowise had to offer. "I was impressed by the adaptive Learning in Prowise Learn, which is the key. The pupils love the exercises and it's used first thing in the morning. It's actually used at any other time during the day when possible. We have a set of twelve iPads between 22 pupils in my class, so there is a healthy competition for them every morning!"



Combination of Presenter and Prowise Learn

In addition, Forest Academy uses Prowise Learn and Prowise Presenter (the free instruction/whiteboarding software of Prowise) on iPads so pupils can follow any lesson individually. There is differentiation on separate pages of a lesson so they can go to differentiated exercises. "For Prowise Presenter we use a shared class login so that pupils can access the lesson content outside of the class with support from a TA, LSA or a parent/guardian at home. Our support staff can access the same content as the teacher, even if they're out of the classroom. We find that this helps with the Learning outcomes of pupils who have challenging behaviour."

More confidence before tests

"There is now a requirement for all pupils in year four to pass their Times Tables test. This is statutory for all schools as of this year. They have to do an online assessment and having practiced on Prowise Learn, it gives them confidence as its a similar format. However, the test itself doesn't give feedback like Prowise Learn, which makes it perfect as a practice. The support from the Prowise team has been appreciated."



Why Prowise?

Forest Academy chose Prowise because of the quality of the touchscreens and the web-based software, Prowise Presenter. The software can be accessed from anywhere which completes the loop between the parents/pupils and teachers. "We find that it backs up the methodology in class so that parents are aware of our teaching methods. If children don't understand a concept, they can then practice it at home", says Brian. "Besides, the training has been bespoke and pitched at the appropriate level we needed. The staggered approach has catered for the different needs of the teachers - I have ended up running internal training for TAs so everyone is on the same page."



Improved outcomes with Prowise Learn

Using Prowise Learn has meant that the children of Forest Academy were more motivated to Learn their times tables. They also wanted to explore the 'spelling' and 'dictation' sections in their own time and own volition. The 'coding & logic' exercises have helped with their reasoning in Maths. Brian has also found that ability on Number in Maths isn't the same as their ability in logical reasoning. The individuals who were good at straight calculations weren't necessarily as good as those other pupils who could 'problem solve'.

"Our focus this year has been engaging pupils in all subjects. Having Prowise Learn on iPads, as well as the big screen at the front of the class, has engaged them tremendously. They will sit for extended periods of time on Prowise Learn and receive instant feedback on how they are getting on. The tools in Presenter particularly appeal and engage, they can underline and make notes on the screen to help their understanding of a topic. They can also watch linked video content to help understanding. Interactive tools on Presenter also help to individualise the hands-on Learning for the pupils."