

Leverstock Green School

Phase: Primary

NoR: 224

Local Authority: Hertfordshire

Unique Challenge:

Convincing parents with limited IT experience to use the system

Objective

One system to meet all of Leverstock Green School's needs - communications, payments, club management and parents evening

Solution

A system that was already trusted and working well within the school

A system that integrated seamlessly with SIMS

Outcomes

Reduced frequency of trips to the bank from once a week to once a term

Breakfast and After-School clubs can be run without the need for additional admin staff

What goals were you hoping to achieve when you decided that an engagement system would be a good fit for your school?

We had three main goals in mind when adopting a new system:

1. Cashless office
2. Communication system for emails/texts that had the potential to be sent free of charge
3. One system for all of our needs - communications, payments, club bookings and parents' evenings

Why did Leverstock Green School decide to use Schoolcomms to reach these goals?

We already knew that the system was easy to use due to previous experience. All of our requirements were met with one system and the integration with SIMS makes life easier for staff.

Were there any advantages to using Schoolcomms that you hadn't considered when originally looking?

The Clubs add-on has been perfect for managing the bookings and payments. Our breakfast and after-school clubs would not be viable without the use of the system as we would need to recruit additional admin support.

We also have the option to add to the 'wishlist'

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What has parent and staff reaction been to School Gateway?

Most parents are very positive about it - they like having a single app for communications, payments, clubs and event bookings.

Staff like the system for paying for meals, printing registers for clubs and live bookings for parents' evenings.

Schoolcomms

What challenges were you concerned about and how did you overcome them?

Getting parents to use the App and not bring in cash and cheques for trips or uniform. We have produced basic instructions on making bookings and payments for parents and have a laptop available in school to assist parents with limited IT experience through the process of setting up the App or using School Gateway.

We have also ensured all new parents to the school adopt the app.



Our breakfast and after-school clubs would not be viable without the use of the system

What has been the impact of adopting Schoolcomms?

Banking has reduced from weekly to once a term which has improved security with no cash on the school premises.

The system is very auditable so we can trace who has paid and when. Reports provide analysis on all payments/bookings/usage/communications to provide Leadership/Governors with effective data to make decisions.

71% of parents have the app so are free to message, previously we paid for all texts after our initial bundle was used.

The Parents' Evening Software has changed organising parents evenings from a completely manual process to an automatic one.

This has been a huge saving on admin time.

Schoolcomms customers in Hertfordshire

