



SIMS

helping  
schools  
inspire

Tracking pupil progress

Managing behaviour and attendance

Driving efficiency

# Assessment on the move with the SIMS Teacher app

## Harbour Primary and Nursery School

Harbour Primary and Nursery School is located in Newhaven, East Sussex, a busy port town on the south coast. Formerly two schools that joined together, Harbour Primary boasts a large cohort of 520 pupils across 17 classes. With a high proportion of disadvantaged children and pupils with SEN, assessment is a key factor in making sure every child achieves their full potential.

As early adopters of education technology, Harbour Primary equipped every member of the teaching staff with iPads back in 2013. So, when the opportunity to install the SIMS Teacher app came along, headteacher Christine Terrey leapt at the chance to streamline the school's classroom management using mobile technology.

Designed to make everyday tasks easier, the app enables teachers to access pupil data and enter information straight into SIMS from their tablets.

### Instant assessment on the go

With large numbers of children in receipt of Pupil Premium, Harbour Primary needed accurate and up-to-date assessment information to give their pupils the best

possible start to their education journey.

The staff at Harbour Primary were used to entering pupil progress data into SIMS on their desktops, using the programmes of study which link to the entire national curriculum. But it wasn't until teachers started to use the SIMS Teacher app that they realised that not only was assessment easier to manage, the quality of the information recorded improved as well.

"For a start, accessing the programmes of study and entering data into mark sheets in the SIMS Teacher app is much quicker than it used to be," says Christine. "There is no need to spend time finding a PC and logging on, as everyone has their iPad with them all the time."

But the real advantage is that teachers can record assessment on the move, which is helping the school get a clearer picture of exactly how the pupils are progressing, as Christine explains.

"In a maths lesson, the teacher can move around the classroom from one table to another and look at each pupil's book. Using the app, the teacher can access the

## Secondary school SIMS case study

### Aim:

To help teachers manage assessment, attendance and behaviour more efficiently using mobile devices.

### Solution:

The SIMS Teacher app

### Impact:

The SIMS Teacher app has given teachers the freedom to enter data straight into SIMS while they are moving around the school, or working from home. Being able to record assessment, attendance and behaviour data instantly means it is accurate and up-to-date, and teachers have more time to engage with their pupils.

"With the SIMS Teacher app, our teachers are no longer tied to their keyboard, screen and mouse, they have everything they need in their hands."

Christine Terrey, headteacher, Harbour Primary and Nursery School

marksheet under the descriptor for 'place value', highlight what the pupil knows, and the information goes straight into SIMS. This means I can see in an instant how each pupil is doing, even before the lesson has finished."

Of course, not all learning happens in the classroom. Christine says, "Having the SIMS Teacher app gives us the opportunity to assess pupil progress wherever a lesson is taking place. Teachers can now take their iPads out on to the field with them for PE lessons, and they can even take and upload photographs as evidence when the class learns a new skill."

### Greater freedom with flexible working

For the teachers at Harbour Primary, working flexibly is a key benefit of the app. "In the past when teaching staff took work home to mark, they had to make notes and enter them on to the system when they came back into school, which meant they were recording the same data twice over," says Christine.

"Now teachers can enter marks into SIMS instantly while working at the kitchen table, or on the train, and they love the freedom this gives them.

"One thing we have noticed is that it has really helped with our end of term assessments, which all teachers need to provide during the first week of term. Teachers used to have to come into school during the holidays to enter these on to the system. Now they can simply open the app, access the marksheets and carry out the assessment at a time that's convenient for them."

### Registration on tap

As well as transforming assessment, the SIMS Teacher app is helping teachers with their day-to-day administrative tasks too.

"At morning registration, many of our



staff like to be able to walk around the school, greeting parents and welcoming the children into the classroom," explains Christine. "Previously, attendance was recorded at a desktop at the front of the class, while the pupils sat still and waited. Now, teachers can pick up their devices and move about, tapping on each child's picture as they see them, which makes for a much more relaxed and friendly start to the day."

Christine has also found that the app helps staff to keep track of pupils wherever they are in the school. "When we have a fire drill, making sure that everyone is present and safe is so much easier than it used to be. I can just open the app, look up each of the classes and check on each child, which speeds up the whole process.

"With the SIMS Teacher app, our teachers are no longer tied to their keyboard, screen and mouse, they have everything they need in their hands."

### Nothing falls through the net

When children know that their behaviour and achievements are being noted, they are more likely to try harder to behave well. Christine finds that the app helps her

teachers make sure that incidents don't get forgotten.

"If there is a behaviour incident, a teacher can log this on SIMS instantly through the app, making it much easier to keep track of behaviour in the corridors and playground, as well as the classroom. And when we award pupils through the 'Marvellous Me' app for doing something well, such as holding the door open for others, this can be entered straightaway too.

"I can check at any time who has been awarded and why, and then we can congratulate these children in the hall during assembly. It's a very powerful tool for encouraging pupils to behave well around the school."

At Harbour Primary, the SIMS Teacher app has given teachers greater freedom to work in the way that suits them best, making everyday tasks quicker, easier and more enjoyable to do.

**"Now teachers can enter marks into SIMS instantly while working at the kitchen table, or on the train, and they love the freedom this gives them."**

Christine Terrey, headteacher, Harbour Primary and Nursery School