

Snapshot

The story so far...

Since the introduction of Hillside's 1:1 iPad scheme, teachers at Hillside have gone beyond their intended vision for iPad by achieving a learning excellence award and ensuring pupil development across all key stages.

What was the impact?

Hillside have noticed a positive shift in pupil's independent working skills. There has been an increase in pupil's interaction during lessons, which can be seen through their motivation and confidence to discuss topics in class.

Why JTRS?

Hillside required a training plan that supported the needs of their staff so they could support the needs of their pupils. We designed a bespoke training plan to ensure Hillside's investments would support specific education needs and provide maximum benefits to pupil learning.

GIVING EVERY CHILD A VOICE

Hillside Specialist School and College is the county school for Lancashire for pupils with Autism. Since the introduction of their 1:1 iPad scheme and with our on-going technical and training support, teachers at Hillside have gone beyond their intended vision for iPad.

While enhancing pupil learning through the use of Apple technology, Hillside have achieved a learning excellence award, recognising their outstanding teaching and learning with technology..

We explain how iPad is supporting teaching and learning development while ensuring measurable impacts for pupil development.

STARTING WITH 'WHY?'

Hillside's vision for embedding the technology into the curriculum

Hillside is a learning environment geared towards communication and interaction for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The school provide a broad curriculum, that meets individual pupils needs and breaks down barriers overcome language, communication and social relationship difficulties. Hillside required a technology solution that could support teaching methods and be adaptable to individual pupil's needs.

We formed a partnership with Hillside and have worked alongside them through each step of their journey with iPad. Providing technical setup, bespoke training for teachers and ongoing support. All focussed on achieving the maximum benefits for each individual child..

THE TECHNOLOGY

Utilising iPad Accessibility Settings in the teaching and learning environment

The iPad Accessibility Settings provides Hillside the option to tailor individual iPads to the pupil's specific needs. Guided Access, one of many Accessibility features, enables pupils to maintain focus on curriculum activities by allowing teachers to disable certain functions of the device.

It's vital for Hillside to support their pupils in the way they communicate. Hillside use iPad to help pupils to overcome difficulties and barriers they may face in the 'Triad of Impairment'. These include 'social communication', 'social interaction' and 'social imagination'. Two features that have been used in various classroom/social scenarios to assist communication and interaction is the iPad VoiceOver feature, to support pupils who struggle with speech and Larger Text sizes for easier to read type across various apps.

THE TRAINING

Making learning more effective

Our team of expert trainers, all of which are teachers themselves, developed a thoughtful and bespoke 12 month training programme for Hillside teachers. Increased confidence and skill set as a result of the training has enabled all teachers to develop their own approach to teaching with iPad. Making learning much more effective and with greater accessibility across the curriculum. Teachers are working closely with support staff and parents to increase confidence levels using iPad, and how the accessibility features can ensure progress for all pupils in class and at home.

A number of apps, specific to support special educational needs (SEN), have also been utilised by teachers, support staff and parents to support pupil development.

THE IMPACT

Motivation and confidence from pupils Since the introduction of iPad, Hillside have noticed a positive shift in pupil's independent working skills. There has been an increase in pupil's interaction during lessons, which can be seen through their motivation and confidence to discuss topics in class. Pupil engagement through various apps and iPad settings have increased, leading to increased development in multiple areas of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 areas. Teachers, support staff, and parents have all shown increased confidence using the iPad following participation in their bespoke training programme.

