

Case Study

Essa Academy in Bolton Manages their iPads with Lightspeed Systems



School: The Essa Academy
County: Greater Manchester
School Size: 1,000 students

Overview

Essa Academy in Bolton are at the forefront of technology in education. Since 2009, they have moved from textbooks and have gone completely digital. Today, with an iPad in the hands of every student and staff member, information and resources are shared instantly, any time.

Using Lightspeed Systems Mobile Manager, Essa are able to control and filter devices on and off of the network and push apps across the school with ease.

Challenge

Abdul Chohan, Director at Essa Academy, has worked at the site since 2009 when it was known as Hayward School. The school had dwindling numbers, declining test scores and was on the verge of being shut down for good. The school applied for academy status in 2009 and after the application was approved, they knew they had to make a lot of changes to turn things around.

One of the first decisions that Abdul and his team made was to begin a 1:1 initiative, that would enable every student to access online from any place at any time.

“Traditionally we would spend half a million pound on servers, cables, computers rooms, laptop trolleys and so on, but at the end of the day when school finishes, that infrastructure stays in school.” Abdul tells us, “What we wanted to do was have something in place where that investment goes home.”

The next big challenge was to find the best way to manage their new devices and keep them safe.

Solution

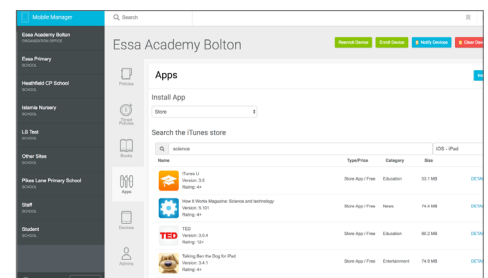
After extensive research, Essa Academy chose Lightspeed Systems Mobile Device Manager (MDM), Abdul recalls, “We had 1000 iPads in the hands of students being taken home every day. We needed something that allowed us to deploy apps, to manage the devices, to make sure students were using them in a secure way and the Lightspeed MDM has certainly given us the ability to do that.”

When tablets are used as learning tools, having the right apps is crucial. Abdul needed a solution that would allow him to update the devices easily so that teachers could share apps with their students instantly—whether at home or in the middle of a lesson.

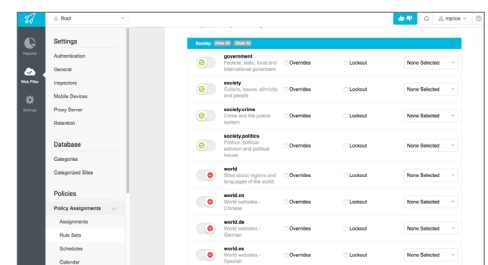
He tells us, “When there’s a good app that’s available, we use the Lightspeed Systems MDM solution to deploy it to all our iPads remotely. We don’t need to collect all of the iPads. With the push of a button, we can deploy an app to all of the iPads or just to specific groups.”

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Abdul Chohan, Director
Essa Academy



Using Lightspeed Systems Mobile Device Management, Essa Academy are able to deploy apps with ease.



With flexible policies, Essa Academy gets granular control over its content filtering.

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Lightspeed Systems cloud based Mobile Manager is designed to be easy for both technicians and teacher, Abdul appreciates this simplicity and the time it saved his staff. "The interface is really intuitive and easy to use. We didn't want a complicated system, it was all very self explanatory," he recalls.

With such a simple and effective way to control the devices, Essa Academy can save resources and keep the focus on learning. "We don't have a huge team of technicians looking after the devices; we have one technician who looks after the devices. The entire deployment has been conducted by him." Abdul says.

By using the Global HTTP Proxy which is built into Lightspeed Systems MDM, Abdul is confident that the devices are safe and students aren't accessing inappropriate material.

He tells us, "The most important thing for me was creating a safe and secure environment and the thing that really attracted me to Lightspeed was the ability to provide a very secure filtering environment that allows us to filter iPads in and outside of the Academy." This means that parents are also confident that the tablets are being used for educational purposes and are not a distraction at home. If a student does try to tamper with the device or tries to use it inappropriately, Lightspeed Systems MDM will automatically notify the school.

"Parents feel comfortable that if a student removes a profile, the system emails us with the serial number of the device and we can contact the parent and let them know that the device is no longer safe," Abdul says.

Conclusion

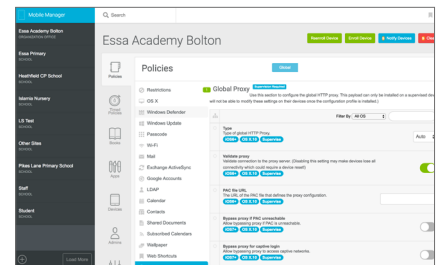
"Abdul sees having the iPads as an essential part of the students development and preparation for life after school. He discusses the old way of learning and the reason they have moved on: "I think for students this is not technology, this is the norm. They used to come into school; they powered down and switched everything off. It was a very unrealistic environment."

Since starting the 1:1 Initiative and changing the way teaching and learning is conducted in the school, Essa Academy has seen it's test scores and student engagement increased immensely

Abdul concludes, "It's a much more interactive experience for the students: they're much more connected with their learning and they're much more connected with their teachers."

"With the push of a button, we can deploy an app to all of the iPads or just to specific groups."

Abdul Chohan, Director
Essa Academy



With the Global Proxy tool built in to the Lightspeed Systems MDM, Essa Academy can ensure that all devices taken off network are safe and secure.

About Lightspeed Systems

Lightspeed Systems makes learning safe, mobile, and collaborative for millions of students around the world.

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