



BYOD helps transform learning

Building **strong, independent learners** through a BYOD programme with dedicated PLD to support teachers

“Introducing BYOD into our school was a natural transition.” - Ross Willocks, Principal, Queenspark School

About Queenspark School

- Located in Parklands, Christchurch
- Principal: Ross Willocks
- Staff: 50
- Roll of over 600, years 1-8, Co-Educational
- Ethnic composition: Maori (11%), Pakeha (78%), Other 11%
- Decile: 8
- School focus on the community and student achievement
- School's mission "Stepping up and Reaching out"

Building an optimal learning environment

Queenspark School has been using technology to support their teaching and students' learning since 2003, when the Principal and his team got involved in the National ICT contract driven by the Ministry of Education. The programme was aimed at increasing teachers' ICT skills and pedagogical understanding as well as the frequency and quality of IT use in schools. Ross saw the school's involvement in the programme as a great opportunity to bring fresh ideas around using technology to enhance teaching and learning.

To support this, the school heavily invested in their IT infrastructure, ensuring they had a reliable and efficient connection. "We have Ultra Fast Broadband in the school through our Network for Learning (N4L) connection. Alongside this we have developed a long-term relationship with Noel Leeming who have supported

us in our BYOD programme and provided us with the advice and technology we've needed for the school. We have a partnership with a Christchurch based IT solutions company, who do all our network management and provide tech support." as Aaron Jukes, Head of ICT and Teacher at Queenspark explained.

"We place high importance on cultural sustainability, technology and digital teaching and learning practices. Having a presence on the web is important to us - this all informs our localised curriculum."

- Ross Willocks, Principal, Queenspark School



Embracing BYOD

In 2014, the school made the decision to become a BYOD school. Together, the school and the team at Noel Leeming collaborated to introduce the BYOD programme. Noel Leeming provided information for parents to help with their purchasing, financing options, and the convenience of a pop-up store each year for parents to purchase on site. The team also assisted with getting the technology into the school and setting up the devices through their Whiteglove service. Initially, the programme was open for Years 7 and 8 to help manage the transition and test and learn, and then rolled out to Year 5 to 8.

As a school with strong ties in the community, it was important to have their full support when implementing BYOD, “we found many of our parents were fully supportive of becoming a BYOD school, so it meant our transition was a lot smoother.

Continual engagement with the community - providing as much information as possible, has been key to keeping their community well connected during the BYOD journey. As Ross explains, “we encourage our students and

community to have a voice in their learning through meetings, open class discussions, collaborating using Google documents in classrooms and sharing with others, and having an online profile on our Facebook page where the school shares events and information to engage the community and students. Our student council takes photos and collects information for students to share their voice and opinions about their learning.

“ It shifts the ownership of the devices over to the students. Having their own device has given them greater responsibility and ownership over their learning - so we’re building strong, independent learners.”

- Ross Willocks, Principal, Queenspark School

Evolving technology requires ongoing learning

Like many schools there’s a need to keep up with the advancement of technology in learning. It’s progressive and fast-“it brings greater engagement, collaboration and

About Noel Leeming's BYOD programme

Deliver a seamless and sustainable BYOD implementation with:

- Advice on the right technology options and accessories to suit the school requirements
- Support with implementation planning and ongoing parent communication and support
- Certified PLD partners and training to ensure teachers are confident and capable with the technology
- BYOD devices are all classroom ready with the Whiteglove service saving the school time

is exciting to be a part of. For example when our students have learnt robotics with Spheros, the question is where too now? That's where our job is continually progressing. We need to keep ahead of our students' learning - so the need for ongoing professional development for our teachers is crucial."

Success requires confident teachers

With some staff members struggling with digital literacy, Queenspark School has invested in professional development programmes from the start. Just recently

the school hosted their first Google for Education event, organised through Noel Leeming in collaboration with Google and Using Technology Better. The event focuses on learning "G-suite for education"; looking at ways for teachers to collaborate and use technology more effectively in class. It also offers schools and teachers a chance to share information and their experiences with peers.

"The Google event Queenspark School hosted was a great success - it went really well and was well received by our teachers. The teachers took the day's learnings and shared it with their teams."

- Ross Willocks, Principal, Queenspark School

"Queenspark School's BYOD programme has been well received by their community. Their story has been a great one to share - they're always looking at ways to improve and support their teachers, so they were a 'perfect fit' to host this event," explains Matt Heron from Noel Leeming. Aaron Jukes, Head of ICT at Queenspark adds, "we sent along two teachers from our BYOD programme classes and myself. We weren't sure exactly what we would get out of this experience, but the day was really good, it changed our mindset and we discovered new tools that we could take back to our classrooms and use straight away."

Partnering to continuously improve outcomes

Today Noel Leeming continues to work alongside the school. "The team at Noel Leeming have provided us with all the information we needed to engage our community and implement a robust BYOD programme. They've provided the convenience of a pop-up store each year, for parents to have a chat with the tech team about the devices and accessories their child needs for the following school year. This has simplified the buying process for our parents, taking the hassle away and they know they're getting the right BYOD package."

Noel Leeming have ensured all our devices are set up correctly and ready to use in class. They've been really supportive in getting the gear up and running efficiently," and it's not just about providing a single solution, as Aaron Jukes adds "Last year we looked into robotics, so Matt bought in some robotic products for us to use and explore what we needed before we purchased - it's service like this that makes my job a lot easier."

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