Elevating teaching with connected edtech

Located in the rural Riverina city of Griffith, part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, is Saint Patrick's School. Situated next to the Sacred Heart Church, the school offers modern learning facilities and large playing areas for students.

Saint Patrick's School welcomes students from kindergarten through to year 6, with three classes at each year level. The school is a systemic Catholic school and all staff are committed to their vocation as Christian educators. Saint Patrick's School is part of the Sacred Heart Parish, a welcoming community which provides a safe and secure environment for students to receive a high-quality education in all Key Learning Areas.

Why the ActivPanel?

Saint Patrick's School benefits from a growing technology provision, with iPads and Chromebooks available to the majority of students. The school is gradually working towards a one-to-one strategy with devices. After winning their first ActivPanel for the Year 1 classroom through the Promethean Grant, the school has since invested in three additional ActivPanels for the Junior School. In addition to access to teacher-friendly apps and resources, the ActivPanel boasts excellent connectivity with wider student devices, this has been instrumental in the school's implementation of its first ActivPanels.

The ActivPanel in action

Across the school, students use their devices collaboratively in conjunction with the ActivPanel. Students benefit from being able to screen share from their devices to the ActivPanel, sharing and presenting their work to the rest of the class. This also proves practical for teachers, allowing them to screen share lessons to the ActivPanel from anywhere in the classroom – teachers are no longer tied to the front of the class.

At Saint Patrick's School, the ActivPanel is used daily to enhance the learning of students. Activities such as letter formation and drawing on the ActivPanel through the Promethean Whiteboard app are extremely popular in the Year 1 class, especially because multiple students can participate in these activities at any one time. The range of tools available such as handwriting templates and grids are quick and easy to access. Teachers at the school can also overlap timer, spinner and annotation tools over any pages in just a few clicks.

Victoria De Mattia, Year Two Teacher and Digital Pedagogy Leader at Saint Patrick's School said: "The students in Year 1 are captivated using the ActivPanel for a range of activities, the precision of the writing experience is excellent for developing their skills. But there are also so many games and resources that really get them excited – a favourite being the Splatt Square maths game."

Ease of use is key to the successful adoption of technology - teachers at the school have commented on the intuitive navigation the ActivPanel provides, making switching between tools and resources easy, saving valuable time in the classroom.

Further to accessing a range of educational resources through the App Store and via the web browser, the ActivPanel is also connected to a document camera, used for displaying books and other traditional resources to classes. Existing non-digital resources can be displayed in large formats on the ActivPanel for classes to use.

Beyond teaching and learning, staff at Saint Patrick's School have also recognised the benefits of using the ActivPanel in staff meetings and training sessions - sharing ideas using the Promethean Whiteboard app and annotation tools. Using the ActivPanel encourages more interaction, discussion and engagement in staff sessions.

"As a school committed to digital transformation, we are extremely passionate about education technology and the opportunities available. Both staff and students alike enjoy using the ActivPanels as part of lessons on a daily basis, connected with peripheral devices and facilitating access to many education tools and resources that promote further engagement. The ActivPanel provides the versatility to easily create dynamic lessons and integrate with our existing edtech provision. " concluded Victoria.

From a teacher perspective, we love using the timer feature to monitor class activities and the spinner tool – they may be simple but it's these little things that really make a difference day-to-day.

Victoria De Mattia