

# A whole new digital landscape of education

## How one school became a regional pioneer with Google for Education

Manurewa Intermediate in South Auckland, NZ, is a big school with a fierce sense of competition. When it came to updating tired technology with the best that digital education had to offer, the school empowered educators with professional development to make sure they were leveraging all the benefits of the new devices.



### Challenge

When deputy principal Thomas Bartlett arrived at Manurewa Intermediate School, he immediately saw the opportunity to improve learning outcomes, levels of engagement, and staff potential, through new education technology. “Our principal was reluctant to spend the money on new tech and 1:1 devices without seeing evidence of the benefits. I did a lot of research, going out to different schools, and put together a report that proved this was the direction we needed to go.” His research provided the evidence that new technology would pave the way towards better outcomes for the teachers and students, and the school began its journey.



Over the last couple of years, Google has made really huge strides in the development of educational systems, while still keeping it user-friendly for students and staff.”

**Thomas Bartlett,**

Deputy Principal E-Learning and Pastoral Care, Manurewa Intermediate

### Solution

With the facts in writing, the school started its transition over from computer labs that needed to be booked in advance, or one or two desktops in a classroom, to a fully digitised teaching and learning network, where every student had access to a device.

#### **Elevating education with new technological systems**

The school partnered with local technology provider Using Technology Better (UTB), who provided Google for Education professional development training, introduced new systems and supported staff in the transition to new ways of working. “With the support of the principal and UTB, a staff professional development team was created and seven pioneer classrooms were launched with Chromebooks for every student. This included Chrome Education Upgrade, which enables the school to leverage the full benefits of the devices and drastically reduce the time needed to manage the devices. “We ran a trial. When the outcomes were collated, it was obvious to see we had to roll out the program across the whole school, every classroom, every subject.”



# Taking the good and making it better

## Solution deep dive

Thomas, the school principal, staff, and technology partner UTB had a number of issues they wanted to solve by transitioning over to Google Workspace for Education. While school attendance was high, engagement needed to be improved and more dynamic learning tools adopted. "Children thrive in new environments and tools like Google Meet, and features like breakout rooms really increase engagement."

Laborious administrative tasks were a severe drain on teachers' time that could be better spent creating lesson plans or assessing student needs. Prior to moving over to Google, it took the school about 10 minutes to set up each individual device - that's 166+ hours spent on deployment alone. "Now, thanks to Chrome Education Upgrade, it takes two hours for all the Chromebooks in the school - that's over 1000 all set up and ready to go in two hours." With such a large student cohort, it was almost impossible to track specific needs for classes, groups or individuals. "Now with Google Sheets we can track exact areas of strength or where extra work needs to be done within classes or subjects."



## What they wanted

- 1:1 devices for all students and staff
- Greater security for devices and a significant reduction in replacement and repair costs
- Greater student and family engagement to increase attendance and outcomes for students
- A unified system for students to access and complete their work
- More efficient systems relating to administration to ease teacher workloads and streamline clunky processes
- The ability to use budget in other areas of need in the school, such as innovation and digital tech programs

## What they did

- Installed seven pioneer classes to trial 1:1 devices and showcase potential learning benefits
- Deployed 1:1 devices for every student, with the rollout managed seamlessly with Chrome Education Upgrade
- Applied for PLD (Promoting Learning Development) funding from the NZ Government
- Worked with UTB to upskill teachers with Google Classroom and provide consistency for learners
- Empowered educators with 1:1 professional development sessions provided by UTB to upskill them with the tools and pedagogy to drive student engagement with Google for Education tools
- Further 1:1 coaching sessions shared effective ways to gather evidence of learning through the purposeful use of Google Workspace for Education tools.

## What they achieved

- All students now have access to 1:1 devices, with many being able to use their Chromebook for home learning during pandemic lockdowns.
- Huge uplift in student engagement across all topics and education areas.
- Greater commitment from staff to digital education and how e-learning can enhance current practices.
- Better communication between teachers and students, but also a closer relationship with carers and families in the community.
- Pioneering status in the region for being the first to implement the latest digital advancements.
- Ensured security of borrowed laptops during COVID lockdown learning and the ability to be controlled by school administration

## Key Benefits

From a starting point of having the heart and desire to make the changes, Manurewa Intermediate School now has all the systems and devices necessary to implement full digital integration across its campus, as well as the educator knowledge to maximise the benefits. “We’ve gone from a couple of dusty desktops in each classroom, to Chromebooks for every student, using Docs, Slides, Classroom, Meet, and apps like Jamboard.”

1

### Significant uplift in teacher digital fluency

Professional development sessions focused on Google for Education tools have led to the teachers at Manurewa discovering a new love of digital learning and systems-driven education, with many now using dynamic, exciting apps in the classroom as standard. “It’s really good to see some of our older teachers come to love learning more about technology, and leading in some areas, such as Math. It’s really helped with school leadership and made all the teachers feel like they had an input into the outcomes.”

2

### Reduction in time-draining, costly processes

While the initial time commitment and financial outlay to equip every student with a device, install systems, and train staff, was significant, the end result far outweighed the input. Across the board, administration and time spent on replacing damaged or lost devices has been slashed dramatically through the use of Chromebooks and Chrome Education Upgrade. “Out of 1000 devices, we probably have to replace five a year. Our kids are really respectful of the technology.”

3

### Improved relationships with the wider community and families

Covering a diverse, but tight-knit community, Manurewa is located in a socio-economic area where it’s common for students not to have their own device or Wi-Fi at home. The introduction of one device per student, particularly through the pandemic lockdowns, has been met with approval from all families. “Students were able to keep learning and showing up, parents really recognised that benefit.”

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### A streamlined, cohesive, and inclusive system

From clunky back-up systems to the Cloud, operations and processes have been streamlined and require much less handholding. Additionally, the new system is able to work with almost any previous platform, making the transition over that much easier. “The Google system is tailored for ease of use. So, I can import a legacy document into Google Drive and turn it into a Google Doc. That aspect has been a great help.”

#### Reach out



Contact Using Technology Better on +64 (03) 669 2973 to find out how Google for Education can help you achieve your teaching and learning goals.

