

An International Case Study

When Hilbre High School Humanities College was looking for a cost-effective, resilient storage and charging solution for its laptop computers it turned to LapCabby for the answer

Hilbre High School Humanities College in West Kirby, Merseyside is a co-educational school for pupils aged 11 to 18 and, like many other schools, it has taken advantage of falling prices to replace its desktop PCs with state-of-the-art laptops.

The schools laptops are transported from classroom to classroom and used by both the pupils and staff for applications from Microsoft Office through to data logging in science lessons and video editing in media studies.

But the flexibility offered by laptop computers can come with a price – the storage, security and charging of them can quickly become a headache and this was soon to be the case at Hilbre High School Humanities College.

Challenge

With 1,000 pupils and three ICT suites, Hilbre High School Humanities College now has 140 laptops in use across the school every day.

Soon after they were bought their storage and charging became a problem. Gavin Roberts, network manager at Hilbre High School Humanities College, says: "We invested in a new bank of laptops to be used across the school by all of our pupils so we needed a suitable place to store them as opting for empty cupboards and classroom cabinets would not be acceptable.

"With our existing laptop trolleys the cabling was very untidy and we were finding that the laptops were not being charged or even plugged in after use. We also found that if we tried to charge several laptops at the same time we were blowing a fuse, much to the frustration of our caretaker.

"We needed somewhere safe and tidy to store our laptops so we began looking at the range of trolleys on the market, to find the most cost-effective and resilient solution."

Solution

Earlier this year, Hilbre High School Humanities College bought a Lap Cabby 10V.

LabCabby is a successful range of laptop and netbook computer charging and storage devices made by Monarch Education Furniture, a family run business which has been manufacturing school furniture for more than 25 years.

the range consists of models that can house between 10 and 32 laptops, netbooks and tablets. Each features a Green power management system that enables schools to reduce their environmental impact and protect their laptop computer batteries.

Using the Power 7 system, an adjustable seven-day timer, teachers can select charging to use Economy 7 power and they can programme the unit to shut down charging after two hours, helping to ensure long battery life.

LapCabby's excellent cable management and power system is housed in a separate compartment to keep it well away from children, providing a level of safety beyond that of other products in the market.

Gavin Roberts continues: "The first thing that struck me about the LapCabby was its value for money. The product was as feature-rich, robust and secure as products costing two or three times its price.

"I also liked the contemporary design of the product, particularly the rubber corner bumpers that serve to protect the unit and the classroom."

Results

The LapCabby is now used throughout the school by both staff and pupils. The school has also ordered a LapCabby Mini 20V for 20 new netbooks.

Gavin Roberts says: "Our laptops are now safely stored in the LapCabby when they are not being used and are returned and charged as soon as our pupils finish with them.

"Transporting laptops from one classroom to another is easier and we don't have to worry about scraping the walls or bumping the cabinet when wheeling it around.

"We know that our pupils are safer when it comes to charging and the laptops themselves are being taken better care of. The LapCabby has proved a hit with both the pupils and staff and will be a permanent fixture in the classroom for many years to come."



Keeping safe in the classroom

LapCabby

New thinking in ICT storage

The number of thefts from schools has sharply risen since the use of ICT equipment, such as laptops. The cost implications of this are bad enough, however, when you take into consideration the time lost teaching and learning, the scale of damage is far worse. Security is being seen as a key priority when purchasing school equipment.

Equipment suppliers and school buyers are now more aware than ever of the steps they must take to ensure that their products stay in the classroom. Closing blinds and curtains, locking doors, activating alarms are just some of the many tips which are given to schools to keep safe.

But for those schools that want that added peace of mind, easy-to-use and cost effective storage solutions are the answer. More and more schools are now purchasing lockable storage units to keep their ICT equipment out of harm's way.

However, with an increasing range of choice available to schools, it can take time to decide on the correct computer trolley or a laptop storage device. It is important to remember the following top tips when purchasing classroom furniture to keep your ICT equipment safe:

Choose quality

The better the quality the longer your furniture will last. You will also find that the higher quality ranges in educational furniture are accompanied by a longer guarantee period and offer up-to-date design features.

Safety

Anything you are buying for your school is inevitably going to be used by pupils. The equipment you buy, therefore, needs to be child-friendly and easy to use for pupils and teachers alike.

Look for the best price

With so many products now available to schools, you can afford to shop around for the best price. It is often assumed that the least costly of your options is inferior to the most expensive. This isn't always the case so do your homework when looking for a trusted, well established brand.

Be practical

Make sure that the furniture you are buying is practical for every day use in the classroom. It is great to have a piece that looks smart but if it is going to take a chunk out of your walls every time it is bumped, you will end up damaging both the classroom and the furniture.

Have fun

The equipment you are buying will hopefully remain in the classroom for years to come so choose something you like the design of. You can now purchase trolleys and cabinets in a range of bright, bold colours so go for something that the pupils will like the look of and which will fit in with the overall design of your classroom.

We all remember our school days. Now, with the advances in technology you can ensure that the pupils in your school remember theirs too by learning in a fun and creative way - without it costing a fortune.

I like ideas that make life easier



I like the way they look

