

CASE STUDY



Like all schools, Hob Green receives money from parents for a wide range of reasons – trips, dinner money, the tuck shop, school items and more.

In her 19 years at Hob Green School, Sue Wells has seen a lot of change in the systems the school uses – and a lot of changes in how education is delivered.

BACKGROUND

Based in the West Midlands in the middle of a council housing estate with high unemployment and deprivation, the school maintains a strong set of values and aims to help bring out the best in every student that passes through its doors.

Now part of the DRB Ignite Multi Academy Trust, Sue's role now sees her working as the Business Manager across both Hob Green and Bromley Pensnett school.

Like all schools, Hob Green receives money from parents for a wide range of reasons – trips, dinner money, the tuck shop, school items and more.

"Cash would come into school and into the classroom Explains Sue. "It would then be sent to the office where we would have to spend hours counting money – often an entire morning. Two of us would then have to check the money was all there and it would then have to be balanced and taken to the bank."

DIFFICULTIES

This proved incredibly restrictive for Sue and her admin staff. If the money was in the process of being counted, Sue couldn't leave the office if she needed to for security reasons. They then had to pay a security company to make sure the money got to the bank with no issues.

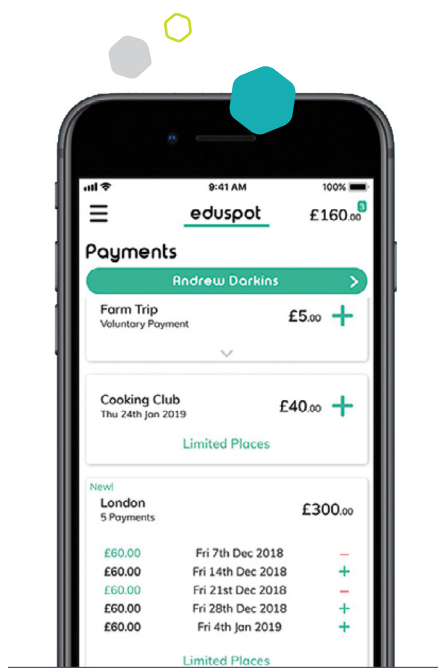
Searching for a better way, the school's IT Technician and Head Teacher attended the Bett Show in 2015 to consider cashless payment solutions.

"We looked at a few systems, but it eventually came down to SchoolMoney and one of its major competitors. When Rhea Jarvis from Eduspot came in and gave us the demo, SchoolMoney looked much better and much more user friendly."

SOLUTION

The setup process for the school was simple, and Eduspot took care of it before they went live.

"It's very easy to pick up" adds Sue. "It doesn't take long after a new colleague begins before I feel like I can leave them alone with it".



Staff too have been thrilled. They love not having to collect money themselves and find the app very easy to use. On the other side, parents also reported unexpected benefits like being able to see their children eating food at school they refused to eat at home!

“We had several parents tell us SchoolMoney was the best thing the school had ever done” says Sue.

HOW DOES RUNNING A SCHOOL NOW COMPARE TO LIFE BEFORE SCHOOLMONEY?

“It is much easier to chase money as regular texts can be sent. Reports are easy as they all export to excel so we are able to edit them and add up debts in a much quicker time. From a safety point of view, it is a lot better and there is no money around school and no more trips to the bank.”

“We love SchoolMoney, it is a very intuitive system and I am extremely happy with it. It has taken a job away from the school which was very time consuming. It has freed up a lot of time which saves money and removes the element of money getting lost or misplaced. It has saved teachers time and we wouldn't hesitate to recommend it to any other school.”

Stuart Brown, Head Teacher, Hob Green Primary School

