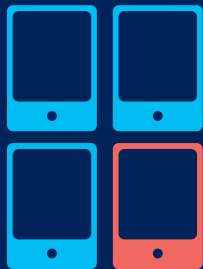


## In IT together

The impact of tech on the efficiency of the classroom



74%

believe pupils' devices are more up to date than their school's



80%

think that pupils' BYOD is creating security issues to the network



45%

of schools don't know what they spend on consumables

# Foreword

John Greehalgh, Head of Public Sector Sales, at Brother UK



“At Brother UK we know how important education is. It plays a key part in making Britain a more prosperous nation. But we’re entering an age where our young people are more tech savvy than ever before. This means it’s even more important that school technology can match up to their growing expectations.

We want to help schools achieve their full potential, so we set out to get a sense of what challenges they are facing and how technology can help support their ambitions, which is why we commissioned a survey of 100 school IT heads.\*

Of course funding is always an issue for schools, but the savings that can be generated by modern print technology, in terms of time, wastage and lower running costs, can be transformative and pay for itself over time. For example, we’ve already helped Helsby High School to save 40% in print costs year on year.

Investing in efficiency frees our teachers to focus their time and energy where it can make the biggest difference to our young people.”

Yours  
John

## Digital delivery

Schools have had to embrace change to ensure they are equipping younger generations with the skills they need to succeed in modern technology-driven economies.

Forward-thinking schools are already embracing virtual learning environments - nearly three quarters are using interactive whiteboards, digital teaching content and online lessons every day. Consequently, when we surveyed those responsible for IT in 100 schools, almost nine out of 10 of them rated their teaching staff as being above average when it came to technology skills which is an encouraging find.

There's no doubt that schools also recognise the value technology brings to learning environments – both in the classroom and behind the scenes – with almost three-quarters saying IT better engaged pupils with the learning experience. But where access to IT resources are restricted, or devices are substandard, technology can also work against teachers.

With budget cuts and efficiencies constantly at the forefront of head teacher's minds, it's important that our education establishments can continue to provide high quality technology to support students on their path to knowledge. And part of that will fall to technology brands to ensure that they can provide relevant, quality, cost-efficient solutions to meet schools' needs.

## Tech saves time

Technology is often hailed as the 'great time-saver'. But what happens when it doesn't work properly? In education, issues with technology are felt more deeply than in most environments.

Of the people we spoke to, almost half said technology not working as it should was wasting teachers' time in their school. These issues can also be a drain on cash and resources, with almost a quarter of all school printing wasted because of mistakes or faults, for example.

78 

hours lost per teacher every year due to not having the right technology available

On average, IT heads believe their teachers could be 16 per cent more effective in the classroom if they had access to modern technology and calculated that each teacher lost an average two hours a week through not having access to the right IT. That adds up to 78 hours in every school year, or 10 per cent of the average primary school teacher's annual teaching time.\*\* So it doesn't seem to be a lack of tech skills that is holding teachers back, rather, restrictions caused by a lack of access to technology, or by substandard equipment, is proving disruptive.

**“The average school spends just over a quarter of its annual budget on ICT equipment and activities.”**

The average school spends just over a quarter of its annual budget on ICT equipment and activities, a figure which is virtually unchanged year on year. But four out of 10 IT heads recognise that it is not enough to provide pupils with the required learning experience. That is brought into sharp focus by the fact that pupils often have access to far superior technology at home than they do at school.

It's clear that schools need to respond to this so that pupils and teachers alike feel supported in the learning environment with technology that enables

## Digital divide in the classroom

There's no doubt that the youth of today are more technologically advanced than ever before. But that means their expectations are high. To grab their attention at school, education establishments need to be able to provide up-to-date technology that can deliver a seamless experience between home and school.

However, in our research we found strong evidence that schools' adoption of IT is lagging behind that of their pupils. Respondents told us that nearly three-quarters of their pupils are using their own devices to do their school work, rather than the devices provided by their school.

**74%** 

believe pupils' devices are more up to date than their school's

More than half of IT heads said pupils perceived that the technology available to them at school was old and out of date.

But four-fifths worry that pupils bringing in their own devices is a security threat and more than half said the situation was causing inefficiencies in the school's IT network.

Strikingly, nearly eight in 10 argue that the IT available to both teachers and pupils needed a significant refreshment in order to improve the standard of learning in their school.

Clearly those questioned felt that the current situation was untenable, with 94 per cent predicting a major step change in the way IT is used in secondary schools within the next five years.

## Putting costs under the microscope

**40%** 

saved on print costs (year-on-year)

Feedback we get from teachers often alludes to the fact that budgets are the primary reason for lower investment in technology.

For example, the cost of printing is under scrutiny at more than four out of five schools, according to our research, while the amount of wastage was being investigated at almost as many.

Print technology has never stopped evolving and the latest modern printers are far more advanced in terms of technology, yet easier to use and cheaper to run, producing far more efficiencies than previous generations.

Modern print management systems can also accurately monitor and control printer networks, helping increase security, cut wastage and reduce costs. For example, Helsby High School are now saving 40% year on year with our b-guard solution.

**“Brother’s MPS service really helps us to manage our print costs. We can see how much we spend on print in each department, on mono and colour printing – we can even predict expenditure, which is helping some departments budget more efficiently.”**

*Matthew Cooke, IT Technician at Ercall Wood Technology College*

By centralising their print function, schools can also reduce the number of printers they need. Schools today print thousands and even tens of thousands of pages every year, so teaming up with an expert technology partner can achieve real long-term efficiencies that can only be of benefit to schools and their pupils.

## John Greenhalgh provides advice on how to cut down print costs

“Schools are constantly looking for ways to cut down on print costs and paper use, demanding more efficient print strategies from their technology suppliers.

“To do this, they need to think about how the technology is going to be used to get the best value solution. Technology that incorporates reliability, lifelong technical support and good functionality will help to ensure that printers are a long-term purchase, reducing the need to invest in expensive technology on a regular basis and cutting down on the amount of equipment needed. Opting for printers that use a separate drum and toner can also save on the cost of consumables.

“In addition, print management solutions like b-guard or Papercut help to provide complete visibility and control of the printer suite as schools can set print quotas, set double-sided printing as standard and lock functions to certain users.”

## Conclusion

It's clear from our research that technology plays a huge role in the UK's schools, not only today but also in the future. The next step is for technology companies to help teachers invest in smarter, more efficient technologies, particularly in 'back office' teaching environments which include printing, secure printing and print management. By doing this, schools could benefit from year on year savings of 40% like Helsby High School.

As cost cutting and efficiency become even more prominent, we expect greater awareness of technology, and its perceived benefits, to filter into the teaching environment. And we want to be at the side of teachers as they approach these changes and improve working efficiencies.

We helped Helsby High School **save 40%** on its print costs. To find out how Brother can help you improve efficiency in the classroom, contact Carl Wilson on 0161 931 2379 or [carl.wilson@brother-uk.com](mailto:carl.wilson@brother-uk.com)

## Steve Ford, Strategic ICT Manager, Helsby High School



### Tell us a bit about your problem.

We had a huge number of printers on site – around 100, which were costly to maintain both from a time and money perspective. We needed printers in school that could cope with high volume printing, reliably, efficiently and cost effectively. We print about four million copies in a year so speed and duplex printing are important, but so is quality.

### Talk about how Brother helped.

They were able to standardise our print fleet so that we aren't faced with lots of machines from different manufacturers, which were even more difficult to maintain. They reviewed our needs and recommended a selection of high-speed mono and colour lasers, A3 inkjets and installed b-guard to help manage print costs, which have reduced by 40% year on year.

### What has this meant for the school?

By reducing the printer suite from 100 to just 52, we've been able to halve overall running costs and, at the same time, increase efficiency. We now have fewer printers to run and fewer consumables to purchase.

### And how has this helped you in your job?

The installation of b-guard means that I have complete visibility and control of the printer suite, as well as enabling me to control costs by setting print quotas for students or departments, enforcing duplex printing and locking functions of a machine to certain users.

[Read the full story here.](#)