Southern Cross Program
Case Study

School Processes

Lighthouse Christian College
Integrating Technology with Learning across the Curriculum

School Description

Lighthouse Christian College was established in 1989, is located in Keysborough and has approximately 420 students. The College offers a complete educational experience – from an Early Learning Centre for four-year-olds to Year 12. Lighthouse Christian College fosters a true community spirit, maintaining high academic standards, small class sizes and a caring, inclusive and supportive community. Computers are used to assist learning and a spirit of enterprise and industry prevail. The staff is made up of dedicated professionals with the level of qualification and experience that parents expect. Seventy-four per cent of students have a Language Background other than English.

Project

Lighthouse Christian College’s objective was to design processes to integrate technology with the learning across the school for both students and staff. The team explored the uses of technology and devices for teaching, as well as for student learning. The process designed will involve a structure of professional learning for staff and the recommended software purchases that will save money and provide a consistent teaching and learning platform.

Process

Defining the project scope can be a very challenging step for a school and this is the first step of the Southern Cross process. Lighthouse Christian College clarified its project scope to remain focussed and results orientated. The training assisted the team in outlining their IT equipment and the professional learning required for staff to build their confidence. This was important for the teachers as they would need to facilitate the technology adoption with students.

Next, Lighthouse Christian College identified the stakeholders and determined the best way to engage with them to have the best impact. This also included educating parents on accessing the school’s web-based software, TASS, to view their children’s homework and assessment grades. The team articulated the reasons for developing their technology capabilities and the benefits of doing this as well as reviewing data to make an informed decision on the process. The ‘Cause and Effect’ diagram (Fishbone) tool was very useful.

The final step of the Southern Cross training was developing an implementation plan. The team found that the process and management training was successful in assisting them in developing their project plan.
Results

When the Lighthouse Christian Collage project team returned to the school, they developed a survey to assess the skills of the teachers and assess their confidence. Based on the finding of the survey, training modules are being developed to strengthen the IT skills of the staff.

The implementation plan has been a useful tool as it outlines what activities need to be done, by whom, whether there is budget allocated and the desired outcome. The plan has enabled Lighthouse Christian College to track their progress.

‘The training was a valuable experience,’ said Principal Avril Howard. ‘It equipped us with principles and skills that we can apply to other projects for successful outcomes and effective utilisation of funding and resources.’

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