

Case Study: Wood End School

Wood End School in Harpenden, Hertfordshire required a high performance, low maintenance display solution for its multi-functional school hall.

Looking for a flexible, easy-to-use solution, the primary school chose the Casio S400 for its flexible junior hall supporting a variety of applications including assemblies and PE lessons.

We spoke to school business manager Gill Bird about what the school looks for when procuring new equipment:

“The top things teachers are looking for are speed, reliability and ease of use. It’s important that the equipment works first time, otherwise teachers get disheartened. That goes for pupils too, these days they don’t want to wait, they expect technology to work straight away.”

Gill explained that in the past, the school had problems with dimming lamp-based projectors. *“The problem with the old projectors was having to replace the bulbs. They would start off bright but dim over time and we’d have to get someone in to replace the bulb, which costs money and time”.*

Key features

- Lamp-free
- Up to 4,000 ANSI lumens
- WUXGA or WXGA resolution
- Quick start and stop
- Casio’s best ever image quality
- WLAN connectivity
- One-Click Connect
- Low power consumption



 **LampFree**
CASIO Green Technology

By going lamp free, Wood End school can depend on its new projector lasting 20,000 hours of usage without dimming, generating huge savings for the school. The unique laser & LED light source not only lasts 20 times longer than conventional lamps, but uses a lot less energy and takes just five seconds to reach full brightness from switch on, saving teachers time at the start of lessons.

“Image clarity is important too. The worst thing is when the children at the back of the room can’t see the display, so we were looking for a projector which was bright enough to produce a clear image even with the curtains open and high ambient light.” The projector is used predominantly for assemblies and PE lessons, both of which call for displaying text as well as imagery so a flexible, high performance projector was required. Thanks to extensive technical development, the S400 features Casio’s best ever colour reproduction, image sharpness and WUXGA resolution, making it perfect for the variety of applications the school needs.

Gill explained that recently, they’ve been using the projector more creatively. *“One of our classes featured a video chat with a professor from America. We used the projector in conjunction with a webcam and had the whole year group on a transatlantic VC call!”*

We asked Gill why the school chose Casio. She told us that her main reasons were price and recommendation. *“We took into account unit cost as well as additional costs incurred over time and as Casio projectors don’t have maintenance costs attached to them, it came out as best*



“A key advantage is that Casio projectors support both HDMI and VGA inputs which is a real plus for schools which often still rely on VGA.”

Jonathan Hatchett, IT consultant

value. We asked our IT consultant what works well in other schools and he recommended Casio as they have a long lifespan. We operate on a three year asset management plan which means after three years we're looking at replacing a piece of equipment such as a projector. The Casio projectors come with a five year warranty so we're really pleased as this provides us with longevity.”

Long-term costs are an important consideration when procuring equipment for schools given the current educational climate in the UK. *“We don't know our income from one year to the next. We receive a certain amount of money per pupil but it's been frozen for six years which means against inflation, the budget's reducing.”* explains Gill. Casio's market-leading longevity eliminates maintenance costs so schools don't need to worry about the cost of lamps or regular maintenance eating into the budget, meaning Wood End school can fit and forget for at least five years.

Gill also stressed the importance of a simple interface. *“Not all teachers have the same level of understanding of technology, some know exactly how to solve a problem but others get frustrated and switch it off. An intuitive interface really helps.”*



We also spoke to IT consultant Jonathan Hatchett from Interm IT, who specified the new Casio projector. *“We recommended Casio on the basis of product quality and price. For schools, cost-effectiveness is really important and Casio projectors consistently last five or even seven years, way outliving their lifecycles without any maintenance. Schools use them all day every day so making sure they last is an important factor.”*

Jonathan explains versatility is another consideration: *“A key advantage is that Casio projectors support both HDMI and VGA inputs which is a real plus for schools which often still rely on VGA.”*

Looking ahead, we ask Gill and Jonathan what they think is on the horizon for education technology. *“There's a huge amount more VR and AR technology entering the education sector”* says Jonathan. *“It enables teachers to bring the topic to life”*. Gill echoes this: *“Technology should capture childrens' imaginations so they can live the topic they're learning about. Creating immersive spaces that bring the topic to life is all part and parcel of teaching these days.”* Gill hints that she expects the school to invest more in collaborative and screen sharing technologies in the future, to encourage greater class participation.

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