Implementing an Apple and Microsoft Ecosystem for China's top International School

edu— —tec alliance

In 2020, for the second time in three years, YK Pao School in Shanghai was recognized as the number one international school in China.

To continue their commitment to excellence, the school's leadership decided to deploy digital devices to all students and teachers in the Primary School, enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

THE OBJECTIVES

- Design and implement a full digital transformation based on Apple and Microsoft Infrastructure
- Establish The EduTec Alliance's 'Box Model' project methodology within the school

THE CHALLENGE

YK Pao School understood that merely purchasing and installing technology would not be enough. They needed a structured implementation project to embed the necessary skills and processes into the organisation. The school engaged The EduTec Alliance's Project Design and Management services to ensure the success of this initiative.

THE APPROACH

1. Ownership and Collaboration:
To ensure project success, it was crucial that the school 'owned' the project. The EduTec Alliance provided Coaching, Technical Advisory, and Project Administration, while the school filled executive project positions.

2. Assembling the Core Team:
A dedicated team was formed to drive the project locally:
- Primary Leader: Strategy, People, Process
- IT Director: Technology, Data
- Contractor: Project Management

3. Governance:
- Weekly Core Team meetings
- Regular one-on-one coaching sessions
- Monthly steering committee meetings with the Head of Primary as the Project Sponsor

4. Tools and Resources:
Utilizing EduTec Alliance's project toolkit was vital for smooth project execution:

- Microsoft Teams: For meetings and collaboration
- Merlin Project: For project planning and tracking
- EduTec Alliance Knowledge Base: For educational technology specifications, deployments, and issues.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Vision and Business Case:
The initial phase specified how the Apple/Microsoft ecosystem would operate effectively within the school, including the technical architecture, costings, and project roadmap.

2. Project Planning:
Following approval, the Project Implementation Document (PID) and detailed project plan were developed, with the Process strand identified as the key driver.

3. Project implementation:
Deploying an approach based on the strands and work packages of its 'Box Model', The EduTec Alliance managed the coordination of all activities and resources to bring the project to a successful conclusion.

EXECUTION AND RESULTS

ON-TIME AND WITHIN BUDGET:

The project was completed on schedule and within budget, delivering over 1,000 managed iPads and MacBooks. Key elements were the Microsoft Teams environment and a user-friendly personalised Cloud Design Box wrapper for staff and pupils. All systems were seamlessly integrated with YK Pao's existing technology infrastructure.

RECEPTION:

The response from staff, students, and parents was overwhelmingly positive. Despite initial concerns about the extensive documentation, training, and testing, they appreciated receiving a fully functional system ready for immediate use.

CONCLUSION

By partnering with The EduTec Alliance, YK Pao School successfully integrated a comprehensive Apple and Microsoft ecosystem, setting a new standard for digital learning in primary education. This case study exemplifies our commitment to delivering strategic, well-executed technology solutions that enhance educational outcomes.

TESTIMONIAL

"*The EduTec Alliance is a breath of fresh air – their low key, but supportive approach means working with them feels much more like a partnership than a consultancy. They have been instrumental in our school's implementation of a brand new Apple environment and have given us the skills to tackle other major projects along the way. We couldn't have done this work, in the short time frame available to us, without their help.*"
- Siobhain Allum, Head of Primary School, YK Pao School