

# Embracing digital learning with Google for Education

How The Warehouse Group for business helped one school establish a more creative and collaborative learning environment

From a single computer room to 1:1 Chromebooks, Carlton School took their teaching and learning to the next level with Google for Education technology.



## Challenge

Carlton School didn't have a lot of local examples to follow when it came to upping their technology game in the classroom. So, when a dynamic new principal decided to take the IT reins and make digital learning a top priority, the school had to go further afield to find a model they could replicate. Over a learning curve of many years, Carlton has gone from having a dusty computer room with clunky PCs, to a 1:1 Chromebook/student set-up, that not only has helped with issues of student engagement, collaboration and creativity, but has helped bring their extended families, or "whanau", into their children's learning environment and journey.



Choosing this route – of Chromebooks and Google Workspace for Education – wasn't about learning outcomes for us, but more around helping the children develop increasing responsibility for their own learning across the school.

Lisa Hulme,  
Deputy Principal, Carlton School

## Solution

Looking back at what provoked such a huge change in attitude towards the benefits of digital learning, Deputy Principal and in-school technology advocate, Lisa Hulme, says there were things that their student population wanted to do that weren't possible.

### The opportunity to explore creativity

"One factor was a lack of collaboration between the kids. We wanted to give them an opportunity to explore those creative things you can do digitally, that just aren't possible on paper. We also wanted them to drive their own learning, and to give them the chance to connect with other students and classes, both here and around the world." The solution to all of these challenges was a step-by-step adoption of more technology, starting with a trial of a 1:2 device classroom involving previously owned laptops, to the investment in 100 Chromebooks, to today, a full adoption of Google Workspace for Education across all ages and year levels, with the help of IT partners The Warehouse Group for Business and Using Technology Better (UTB).

# Becoming a fully digital school

## Solution deep dive

Once Carlton School started to adopt more and more technology, starting with repurposed laptops, then Chromebooks, the benefits became clear very quickly, and so the move to being a fully digital school continued.

### The ability to use Google for Education technology to story tell

“With the introduction of the first 100 Chromebooks, we saw an immediate change in engagement and excitement,” says Lisa, who explains the ability to use a whole range of apps and websites to help support activities including storytelling, movie making, animation and comic strips, ignited an enthusiasm for learning in even the most hard-to-please youngster. “Give a child the option of writing a story with pen and paper vs on Google Docs and 90 percent of the time they will choose Docs. It was simple things that got them hooked.” After joining forces with The Warehouse Group for Business, and later with UTB, today the school has 250 Chromebooks, so one for every student, plus they support a BYOD system. “Choosing this route wasn’t about outcomes for us, but more around helping the children develop responsibility for their own learning across the school.”



## What they wanted

- The ability for students to collaborate on projects and everyday learning
- A more creative, inclusive, exciting approach to digital learning styles
- Increased staff knowledge and use of digital learning tools and management
- Inclusion of families - “whanau” - so both students and parents could be involved in and have access to onsite learning
- Access to the latest and greatest educational technology for all students

## What they did

- Employed The Warehouse Group for Business for IT support and device attribution, then UTB for future support in digital solutions
- Purchased new Chromebooks over a number of years
- Adopted the Google for Education platform and implemented products through classrooms and management systems
- Incorporated IT fluency into weekly staff professional development sessions, plus additional weekly support sessions on demand
- Repositioned all learning and teaching online so that when home schooling was required due to COVID-19 there was a seamless transition

## What they achieved

- Carlton is one of the few fully digital schools in the region
- A significant increase in learning engagement across all grades
- Reduction in IT support costs due to being more autonomous with Chromebooks
- Stronger relationships with families who now communicate more easily with teachers and feel part of their child’s learning journey
- Heightened security across what students are accessing through a power dashboard system integrated with Google Docs and other Google products.

## Key Benefits

From greater student collaboration and access to international competitions and schools, to a significant increase in technology fluency in staff and managers, Carlton School has transformed its education roll-out and reinvented itself as a state-of-the-art digital school.

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### Significant IT support cost savings

After the initial outlay to purchase the 250 Chromebooks Carlton needed to become a 1:1 device school, Lisa says they saw a drastic cut in costs. "Prior to moving to Chromebooks, we had a number of outdated and different devices. So many things would go wrong and we would need an IT technician on site weekly. Switching to Chromebooks, which are sturdy, reliable and so easy to use, meant that we don't have to pay for replacement devices or fix issues." Lisa says they now funnel that money into other digital technology that extends learning opportunities..

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### A complete adoption of online education

By embracing Google Docs, Google Sites, Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Classroom, and all of the apps and websites accessible through those products, Carlton school have put their learning online. While the initial learning curve over to a digital system was time-intensive, Lisa says the staff now benefit from the time they have pulled back, which they now dedicate to other areas of education.

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### Better relationships with student families

Giving parents and carers access to all the platforms their children were using has increased the level of engagement between the school and families. "Now parents can message, text, email, post videos or pictures, direct to their child's teacher. It's removed that distance between the educators and the families." Carlton also worked with The Warehouse Group for Business to enable all families the ability to purchase devices affordably.

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### Becoming a school of the future

Since their digital transformation Carlton are always on the lookout for what Lisa calls "the latest and greatest in digital technology" to assist them on their journey of providing the best education to their students. "As well as Chromebooks, we now have 3D printers, robots, drones and coding devices. Our aim is to keep the kids excited and give them opportunities to explore new things and do everything they want to be able to do."

### Get in touch



Contact The Warehouse Group for Business on 0800 737 5223 to find out how Google for Education can help you achieve your teaching and learning goals.