
Background Information 2003

The situation we found ourselves in was that Cathednet was being installed inline with all the other schools (we were the last). It was fully installed by Term two. We had some money put in an account last year for equipment to be used for this year. We had, out of the 5 staff, different degrees of expertise in the use of computers and the Internet. We had computers in every classroom – approximately 3 in each classroom, but some were outdated and not working. The teacher's Resource room had two computers. There was also an administration computer and a library computer. There was a printer in every classroom, the Principal's office and the Resource room. There was a minimal range of software. Brother Berkeley indicated that he no longer wanted to service the desert schools at the end of 2002 but was happy to help out until we could make other arrangements.

After term one, teachers found that children had very little expertise in using computers. Cathednet was still not installed; there were huge problems with hardware. Computers were inoperable because of the children's lack of experience. Brother Berkeley visited in Term two and was concerned at the huge range of problems that we were experiencing, both in terms of hardware and software problems.

2003

As a result of this a number of decisions were taken for the rest of the year.

1. Children would be individually supervised on the computers until they demonstrated they were adequately able to use the programs provided.
2. Staff would focus on their own development in computer understanding.
3. New computers would be purchased
4. HD Guard would be installed to protect the settings on the computer.

Other decisions following this will be:

1. To set up our own home page for effective use by staff and students – as a real means of communication.
2. To develop a constant hardware upgrading programme, which included purchasing four more computers & headphones in 2003
3. To address minor issues
4. To employ a shared IT person with the other desert schools from Term 4 onwards.
5. To purchase PC Anywhere for the Office, the Resource room and the Library, to assist the IT person.
6. To investigate getting a school Network server, a UPS and surge protectors for some computers.
7. To purchase more relevant software
8. To check and update all licenses
9. A laptop was purchased for administration.
10. To develop a developmental plan and a series of competencies for children from Kindy to High School.
11. To develop a similar plan for Staff to allow for future professional development.
2004 – 2005

Within the next two years it was decided to:

1. Investigate a leasing program for teachers and laptops in term one 2004 and make some sort of decision by end of term.
2. To develop a hardware rollover programme, so that the system on the network is uniform. This will amount to four computers per annum.
3. To purchase an up to date digital camera in 2004. Preferably 4 mega pixels with an optical zoom.
4. To develop a developmental plan and a series of competencies for children from Kindy to High School.
5. To develop a similar plan for Staff to allow for future professional development.
6. To utilise the D drive as a shared drive rather than set up a network
7. To provide professional development for teachers on using Myinternet and Myclasses and network server.
8. To provide Professional Development on use of Internet for teacher and student resources.
9. To build up a list of useable sites.
10. To develop a wireless network so teachers are able to access the network from home.