

Engage case study

Kingswood College

About the school

Celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2019, Kingswood College is one of the oldest educational institutions in South Africa, with roots in the Settlers days of the 1820s.

Located in Grahamstown, the Eastern Cape of South Africa, the college holds true to its rich traditions of a Methodist boarding school, providing its 950 pupils with an education rooted in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, helping to foster every pupil's spiritual, moral, social, intellectual, cultural and physical development.

Website

www.kingswoodcollege.com

Head of Academic Administration

Allayne Guest

With 950 pupils, Kingswood College adopted Engage in 2017 to enable their goals of fostering each pupil's spiritual, moral, social, intellectual, cultural and physical development to be met.

Effective and efficient

"Within 18 months of implementation, I have just two words with which to describe Engage," said Allayne Guest, Head of Academic Administration, "Effective and Efficient.

"Locate Pupil enables us to find pupils in seconds, saving time and stress. No more emailing everyone or checking timetables and subject choices to find someone.

"Timetable substitution has made re-allocation of teachers so much easier. Within a few clicks, free staff are allocated with an automatic and detailed communication to them.

"Lesson plans are created so that communication between teacher, pupils and substitution staff is far more efficient. No more 'We don't know what to do' excuses.

"An example where Daybook has helped is with detentions. The communication automatically goes to the pupil, their houseperson and tutor and other appropriate staff. Pupils can no longer play staff members one against another.

"All school reports are from Engage, with digital records, delivered through the portals. Teachers really appreciate the efficiency Reports brings to their reporting sessions.

"Managing Parent/Teacher interview booking is wonderful. I love using it. There's an increase in parents attending and the management efficiency is a piece of cake! I now have parents phoning and emailing me asking when bookings will be open so they can book quickly!



"The Document Management System (DMS) brings great efficiency. No more walking to the secretaries' office looking for such items as birth certificates. We just pull them directly from Engage. We also use the DMS for staff performance appraisals.

"Performance Tracking of academics is much easier for Grade and Academic heads. I can now determine awards in an hour. Previously, it would take at least a day.

"For boarders, we've created a Daybook form for parents to request a leave out for a weekend or a meal directly through the Parent Portal. This has helped housepersons keep track of requests and streamlined the communication and record-keeping.

"Activities is a huge time saver. Pupils sign up for all their sports and enrichment activities in the Pupil Portal, saving us hours and hours collating separate sign-up papers. Housepersons can see which activities our charges have signed up to, and where they should be, just by looking at the timetable on the portal.

"It could go on and mention Lesson attendance; entering data anywhere; release reports anytime; and monitoring academic performance.

"In summary, Engage is effective, efficient, time and paper saving, and brings excellent communication."

