

Engage case study

Knights Preparatory School

About the school

A vibrant school rooted in Christianity, Knights prepares its 400 children to be secure in their uniqueness, enabling them to impact the world, knowing their talents are God-given and that the way they think and live establishes their platform for success.

From a Principal, a teacher and 18 children in 1986, the school has grown considerably, moving to new premises in Kensington B, Johannesburg in the early 1990s. In 2007, the school renamed to Knights to reflect its strong and dedicated Christian ethos.

Website

www.knightsprep.co.za

Principal

Michelle McMenamin

InterSen HOD

Lara Philip

Following a recommendation, Engage was chosen by Knights Preparatory School in June 2016 to replace the many non-integrated systems and apps which took considerable manual effort to keep up to date with the inevitable concern of knowing which system held the latest and correct data.

Early wins

Attending her first User Group, Lara Philip, InterSen HOD, remembers wondering if Daybook was some sort of glorified calendar. Two years later, Daybook has become the school's favourite element of Engage.

Having used email and many separate apps to communicate with parents, staff and learners, Knights now uses Engage for all communication. "This includes all comms, from our weekly parent memo to our outing letters, discipline structures, messaging and sports sign up – the list is endless," says Lara.

Parents' evenings were characterised by long waiting queues, and being seen on a first come first served basis. "Engage has completely changed all of this with its on-line Parents' Evening booking system," commented Lara. "Now it's quiet, orderly and a pleasure. Parents are now convinced regarding the changes and it has really improved our one-on-one communication with them."

"At times, parents would arrive at the office needing to know where their child was. Now, with Engage's find pupil, we can track exactly where they they should be, via the portal."

Favourite features

The School's key players bought into Engage straight away and, once set up, it was launched to the staff, followed by the parents, learners, and finally, used for fee



Principal, Michelle McMenamin

billing. Features appreciated by the teaching staff include:

- well informed parents;
- everything at hand in one place; comments and marks in one place with a single integrated report;
- easy access to information;
- visibility of medical incidents;
- seamless export to Excel; ability to work from home.

Principal benefits

Knights Principal, Michelle McMenamin, also praises the way that Engage has connected all facets of the school: "At Knights we celebrate the uniqueness of each individual in our care and Engage has made it possible for us to do this in real practical ways every day. Our school is more connected and our parents receive feedback and information that is pertinent to their children. Our parents love seeing the DayBook notifications which allow them to engage meaningfully with their children on what has happened at school. I love that our school community is connected regardless of where we are geographically."

