

BEDS AND BUCKS SCHOOLS CHOOSE ONLINE PAYMENTS

THE COTTESLOE SCHOOL WENT CASHLESS

We asked Sonya Amor Marshall, School Business Manager from The Cottesloe School, in Bedfordshire (Buckinghamshire LA) why they made the move to cashless, and how they've made such a success of the conversion.

Sonya explains: "ParentPay was already in place when I joined the school, which was originally implemented by our caterers to collect the school meal income."

Many ParentPay users are introduced to ParentPay through their caterers, and go on to use the system to collect income for other school items and activities online.

MAKING THE MOST OF THE SYSTEM

ParentPay can be used to collect payments online and through PayPoint for different items, Sonya outlines why their school decided to make other school items available for parents to pay for online, such as revision guides, trips and other activities:

"Our Finance team were keen to expand the use of the system because it was easy to use, and having seen how it changed the process of collecting cash and cheques, we knew it would help streamline everything in accounts."

Sonya adds: "ParentPay has made life so much easier for the ladies in our finance office, it has transformed our processes and made collecting payments much more efficient. All the information they need is right there in front of them, they can see live balances of trips and other school items as well as those from the cashless catering system in the canteen.

Not only does ParentPay integrate with our till system, but it feeds straight into our Private Funds Manager too, which has further reduced the work load for our finance team."

CONTINUED >

OBJECTIVE

Make the most of existing system used to collect meal payments. Streamline processes and improve efficiency

SOLUTION

Use ParentPay for trips and other items. System already integrates with cashless catering and other systems to make process easier.

OUTCOMES

Transformed the way we collect payments and streamlined processes. Convenient for parents.



Not only does ParentPay integrate with our till system, but it feeds straight into our Private Funds Manager too, which has reduced the work load on our finance team

Sonya Amor Marshall
The Cottesloe School

TO FIND OUT MORE OR ARRANGE A FREE VISIT
PLEASE CALL 02476 994 870

ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO GET ON BOARD

Parent uptake of the system is key, Sonya explains how The Cottesloe School helped parents make the change; "Our finance officer has worked with parents to help them activate their accounts where needed. We've also provided access to a PC in the library for them to use should they need to.

We keep in touch with parents, sending newsletters and reminders from within the ParentPay system, and provide PayPoint cards and letters where required."

Sonya concludes: "There are so many advantages of becoming cashless, and it's really convenient for parents, if schools are considering making the change, I'd recommend it."

USEFUL TIPS

- 1. AGREE A CASHLESS STRATEGY WITH SLT AND COMMUNICATE THIS TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS**
Your strategy could be something as simple as: From next term we'll be offering and encouraging parents to pay for items online, helping us reduce cash in school. Our aim is to be totally cashless in 5 years. Or your strategy could be more aggressive: All parents must pay online or through PayPoint from next term.
- 2. HAVE A PLAN THAT CAN DELIVER YOUR STRATEGY**
Plan key timescales including an onsite system demonstration, getting sign-off by SLT/Governors, staff training and roll-out. ParentPay advisors can help you with this.
- 3. RAISE AWARENESS AND INTEREST**
Central to your plan should be communication with parents and staff. Keep communication simple and positive. Our advisors can work with you to plan communications to suit your school. Aside from using your website, you could also use letters and emails as well as parent's evenings and events.
- 4. SPARK ACTION**
Consider a promotion to encourage parents to pay online or through PayPoint. Eg: for a specific event or school trip.
- 5. BE INCLUSIVE AND PROVIDE FOR CASH BASED PAYERS**
94% of parents prefer to pay online, but for those who don't or can't, sign-post them to PayPoint. There are over 33,000 local shops offering PayPoint across the UK.
- 6. REMEMBER ALERTS AND REMINDERS**
Provide balance or new payment notifications via ParentPay's email and text system to increase early payments and drive uptake

GET STARTED, IT'S SIMPLE

Our experienced advisors are ready to help, they can answer any questions you may have; provide a quote for your school; or give a demonstration of our system. You can even arrange to see us in person; we'll visit your school and show you and your staff how it all works.

TO FIND OUT MORE OR ARRANGE A FREE VISIT
PLEASE CALL 02476 994 870