

# From confusion to cohesion

## How Source Central transformed St Thomas More Primary's teaching and learning experience with the Google for Education platform

Located in Melbourne Australia, St Thomas More Primary school is home to 410 students, and powered by 50 dedicated staff. By encouraging responsible risks in learning, the school community works together to create a creative, collaborative work environment.



### Challenge

A decade ago, St Thomas More was struggling to stay organised. "There was no way to work collaboratively on subject planners," says Digital Technology Leader, Sonia Mazzei. "It really hindered teaching capability and made it hard to track learning because the teachers never had the confidence they had the most up-to-date document for their subject. The students wouldn't have been aware, it would have hindered their learning as well."



"Adopting the whole Google for Education platform has made life easier – from better collaboration to greater productivity. We're forever evolving because Google is forever evolving. When there's a new technology or tool, I can share it with staff and students."

**Sonia Mazzei,**  
Digital Technology Leader, St Thomas More Primary School, Hadfield, VIC

### Solution

Urgently needing to find a solution to a situation that was confusing and stressful for educators, St Thomas More turned to their technology support partner, Source Central, for help. "We had IT support on-site twice a week from Source Central so they could see the challenges we were facing."

#### New ways of working with Google for Education

Source Central introduced Google for Education and suggested starting with Google Calendar, part of Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals (formerly G Suite for Education). "Source Central really held our hands every step of the way as we trialled new ways of working," says Sonia.

Over a two-year roll-out, St Thomas More expanded its use of Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals to include Docs, Drive, Slides and Classroom. They went on to adopt 1:1 Chromebook for grades 1-6, as well as Chrome Education Upgrades for each device, to enable seamless and secure management of the whole fleet. More recently they upgraded to Google Workspace for Education Plus to benefit from the full range of features such as attendance tracking, breakout rooms and enterprise-grade security.



# School-wide transformation with one platform

## Solution deep dive

With numerous versions of the same planning documents confusing teachers and students, Source Central wanted to solve the issues St Thomas More were having. Primarily, the educators needed to be able to better collaborate and bring their learning structures together under one safe, secure, platform.

### Collaboration + Consistency = Creative Conclusions

Source Central helped Thomas More embrace a full suite of Google for Education tools.

Thomas More opted for a 1:1 student device strategy, with a school-wide rollout of Chromebooks. Running on Chrome OS, Chromebooks enable seamless learning from wherever the student is logging in and remove unnecessary distractions. They're also an inexpensive option and are designed with security at the forefront.

Today, the school is leveraging Google Workspace for Education Plus. The premium platform offers enhanced security features, advanced admin controls and intuitive learning tools. It also comes with enterprise-level endpoint management, making remote device management simple and efficient.



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**Sonia Mazzei**

## What they wanted

Educators and managers at St Thomas More wanted a collaborative way of working and planning. “Open plan learning was being encouraged, so teachers were expected to open up their doors and share everything – levels, students, teaching and work planners,” says Sonia. “Teachers were chasing their tails and needed a better way of communicating with each other and students.”

## What they did

With the help of Source Central, Thomas More Primary implemented a complete Google for Education solution:

- Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals (at the time known as G Suite for Education), including:
  - Google Calendar for staff for better collaboration and communication.
  - Google Docs for minute taking in staff meetings, to show staff how numerous people could work on one document simultaneously.
  - Using Google Classroom, Google Drive, Google Slides and other features across learning and teaching methods.
- 1:1 Chromebooks to all students in grades 1-6, including Chrome Education Upgrades.
- Later upgraded to Google Workspace for Education Plus (formerly known as G Suite Enterprise for Education) to gain access to all security and features and tools.

## Key Benefits

As a result of implementing the Google for Education solution, St Thomas More primary school has recorded a myriad of achievements and improvements that they connect directly to the new technology and learning platform.

1

### Decrease in costs

Adopting Google for Education has seen dramatic savings for St Thomas More. This has allowed funds to be devoted to other areas of the school, without compromising access to state-of-the-art technology. "All of our education needs are accessed via the web and we stopped paying for apps and programs years ago," says Sonia.

2

### 100% increase in engagement

Prior to moving over to Google for Education, St Thomas More had to wait until the end of each term to liaise with parents about their children's learning journey. "Now we can engage our parent community and collaborate with them ongoing," says Sonia. "Students also learned how to provide constructive feedback to improve learning outcomes."

3

### Improved productivity

"Productivity has increased dramatically because teachers are able to collaborate and share workload," says Sonia. "This wasn't previously possible, and we were basically chasing our tails, trying to find out who had the latest version of a document or planner. It was very messy and made it hard to track learning."

4

### 100% increase in student access to up-to-date devices

St Thomas More students, grades 1-6, have access to a 1:1 Chromebook program, enhancing their learning and their approach to schoolwork. The improvement was evident as soon as the devices arrived, says Sonia. "The kids were just beside themselves. It makes it easier for them to learn, and easier for the teachers to deliver the content, because the device works so well."

#### Reach out



Contact Source Central to find out how Google for Education can help you achieve your teaching and learning goals.

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