



## Wyndcliffe Primary School

Gabriella Fokti, Teacher at The Hive Autism Unit

### Tell us a little about your school...

We are a mainstream primary school with a newly-opened resource base for children who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition. We use ReallySchool in our resource base, where we currently have 12 children on our register.

### What were the main challenges you faced with the observations process before you used ReallySchool?

During the day, all three members of staff in the resource base would take pictures of the children as the children were completing their activities. At the end of the day, these pictures would be inserted into Publisher and we would type up our observation notes. This would then be printed off for each child and added to their observation folders alongside them.

While we created an impressive amount of evidence, it was time consuming and the learning objectives were not evident. During our progress meetings, we needed to show evidence of certain targets met. Due to our observations being paper based, we could not filter by subject or find a particular observation quickly.

Our parents were pleased with their children's learning journeys; however, with the vast amount of information, they didn't have enough time to look through all the evidence. We needed a more succinct assessment process.

### What were your (and other staff's) first impressions of ReallySchool?

Overall, we all found it easy to use, although like with anything new, we needed a little time to get used to it, especially making sure that our objectives were not only attached to an observation but also assessed. We are especially impressed with the presentation of the learning journeys and the ease of sharing our observations with parents. We enjoy getting comments from our parents and discussing certain observations when we see each other at home time.



## How has using ReallySchool changed your observations?

Our observations are now attached to learning objectives and stored in a system that can be accessed by our leadership team. Our observations are more accurate, as the notes are typed up as soon as they are made. Our parents have access to our observations and can comment on them.

## Does ReallySchool enable you to assess your SEN students' skills accurately?

We were able to work closely with the developers at ReallySchool and they have added the Autism Progression Framework and the Birmingham SEN toolkits for us to assess against.

## What, if any, is your experience of using ReallySchool with parents?

We had some very positive feedback about the app from our parents. They are able to use the observations as conversation starters and, in general, feel more included in their child's school life. It is especially useful for the parents of our non-verbal and minimally verbal children who haven't got the language skills to talk about their day at school.

## Do you use ReallySchool as part of giving feedback to pupils? If so, how?

We use ReallySchool for informal feedback when we discuss with our pupils any badges that they have earned.

## What are the three main benefits for your school from using ReallySchool?

1. Our observations are linked to objectives from the two main SEN frameworks appropriate to our setting.
2. Increased parental involvement.
3. Well-presented learning journals.

## Would you recommend ReallySchool to others? If so, why?

Yes, I would. It's an easy-to-use tool that allows us to keep track of the children's progress and share a well presented learning journey with all our stakeholders.

