

CASE STUDY

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SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION

The Oxford Diocesan Bucks School Trust (ODBST), is formed of eleven primary schools across Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire with varied IT provision. The trust engaged in a tender process to revitalise technologies across the central functions and each school to standardise IT equity for everyone and the environment, pushing for net-zero by moving to the cloud.

The creation of a single M365 tenancy for the trust with school subdomains provided a mechanism for sustainably accelerating outcomes in future transformation plans. It removes technical support challenges and varied utilisation of mixed online cloud tenancies or old on-premises servers. The new centralised trust function has improved communication and collaboration between the staff in the trust and schools.

Each school moved to a dedicated high-speed fibre broadband connection. A rolling device replacement programme has driven the adoption of Windows 11 computers with the security benefits of TPM2 and BitLocker data encryption. In parallel, A3 CSP licences were purchased to maximise the M365 functionality available, including security.

The improved broadband, hardware infrastructure, and devices unlocked the M365 potential of Outlook email, personal files migrated to OneDrive, SharePoint as a trust intranet, and Teams as a shared file and communication hub. It reduces security vulnerabilities and offers the safety of Microsoft Azure cloud storage with the convenience of staff data access anytime from anywhere. Linking school data sync between the cloud MIS and M365 automates processes and reduces workloads.

The next phase of the transformation journey is to standardise central device management through Microsoft Intune and Autopilot to push security settings, two-factor authentication and multi-factor authentication conditional with an upgraded A5 license, and personalised apps. Simplified device management provides equitable access to pupil devices, simplifies the user experience, and offers personalisation. Digital transformation staff training is being considered by working with Turn IT On, as a Microsoft Global training partner to establish digital ambassadors and Microsoft educator qualifications.

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