

Making the impossible possible

How a mammoth school transformed with Google for Education

School at a glance

Since its inception in 2003, the Sun Valley International School in India has been passionate about providing the highest quality education at affordable prices to its cohort of 2500 students. At the heart of this commitment was education via technology.



Challenge

Mr Anant Kumar Gupta, IT Head, Promoter Director, has been with the school from the beginning and admits to having a vision of a fully digitised, collaborative education system that benefited staff and students equally. “That was my dream as far back as 2003,” says Mr Gupta. “Integrated technology and teaching.”

Sun Valley International School’s biggest challenge has always been upskilling teachers and overcoming reluctance to adopt new technology.



When I see the teachers using Chromebooks and Google, I have a real sense of pride. We have achieved a lot”.

Anant Kumar Gupta,
Promoter-Director, Sun Valley International School

The school grappled with a number of different types of technology over the years – from computer labs with PCs, laptops, smartboards and more. Mr Gupta’s primary challenge was getting teachers on board with edtech. The global pandemic was the tipping point required to accelerate change, and Google for Education was the solution to one of the biggest problems the education system had ever faced.

Solution

“When COVID-19 struck, the entire teaching methodology had to be restructured around technology,” says Mr Gupta. “In many ways it was a nightmare. But it was also an opportunity to get all of our teachers comfortable with technology and digitise all the manual operations we were still using.”

In 2019 Mr Gupta had attended a Google Workshop, followed by a conference in the UK where he learned about the Google for Education offering and discovered Chromebooks. “Straight away, I knew this was something we could figure out and use.”

A herculean task made achievable

Solution deep dive

After a Google Workshop and a trip to BETT & LearnIT in the UK in 2019, Mr Gupta returned to Sun Valley and the school began their Google for Education journey. “I started a pilot project across Grade 6 with 60 Chromebooks – 40 for students, 20 for teachers. I wanted to give our students and teachers a feel for technology-assisted education. By the end of that year, we were using Google Forms, Sheets, and Docs in classrooms.” The Google tools allowed greater student collaboration and a more seamless learning experience, while also providing real time data to be able to drive continuous improvement.

Excited about the prospect of continuing the rollout of Chromebooks and Google Workspace for Education across all grades, neither Mr Gupta nor the rest of the world could have predicted what 2020 would do to education globally. “The impact of the pandemic was so huge and so drastic, it caught many of us off guard. But within five days I had created the required set-up for the whole school in terms of creating Classrooms and ID’s so students could log on.” Remote education was drastically simplified with the Chrome Education Upgrade, which meant the team could manage and deploy user and device policies, and much more, through the Google Admin Console.



The right tech equals timeless success

What they wanted

- A fully digitised teaching system that educators could use to connect to students across many locations
- Better collaboration and communication among student groups for projects and enhanced learning
- Increased digital literacy and fluency for all staff and educators in order to implement and adopt the digital aspects of edtech
- High quality education at affordable prices for students and families
- Secure, safe learning platforms for students of all ages to allow for global exposure and experience

What they did

- Selected Google Workspace for Education and Chromebooks as the ideal solution
- Created a teacher taskforce of 18 who were trained in how to use Google for Education in order to role that skill set out to the remaining teacher cohort
- Started the rollout with 60 Chromebooks across Grade 6 with the aim of increasing this across all grades over time
- Leveraged Chrome Education Upgrade to assist with rollout and ongoing management of the devices across disparate locations

What they achieved

- Supported home learning during the pandemic for 2000 students with Google Workspace for Education and the remote management capabilities of the Chrome Education Upgrade
- Greater engagement with families and the wider school community thanks to real-time support from IT partner Searce Technologies
- Increased skills and confidence among 100% of teachers who previously could not use technology for education
- Confidence in their own abilities to fully digitise the school and be a pioneer in the region for the use of Google for Education

Key Benefits

Google for Education, along with digital partner, Searce Technologies, will allow Sun Valley International School the opportunity to achieve their vision of a fully digitised system in a safe, secure learning environment for every student. “I really enjoyed the support we got from Searce and know that will be useful in the future.”

1

Significant IT support cost savings

Mr Gupta knew that without having his educators on board, he could never hope to offer the kind of digital environment and technology-assisted education that he knew his students deserved. The intuitiveness and usability of Google for Education tools, however, make it possible for even the most reluctant educators to embrace the possibilities. “Now we are back in the classrooms, the benefits are really being felt. I think by the end of this year, even the teachers who were hardest to convince will be finding everything much easier.”

3

A complete adoption of online education

In addition to Google Classroom and the features of Google Workspace for Education, which enabled group collaboration across projects and discussions, Mr Gupta saw the great benefit of students being able to connect, especially during lockdowns. “They could problem-solve, chat and see each other in a secure way that did not put them at risk.”

2

Better relationships with student families

With parents looking over students’ shoulders as they engaged with Google Classroom, the school was under more pressure to perform. Chrome Education Upgrades streamlined remote IT management, providing a seamless deployment experience for the students and their families. “Our students learned a lot – but so did their parents,” smiles Mr Gupta. He says many parents were grateful for the additional support from IT partner Searce Technologies, who would make individual calls to homes to help where required.

4

Becoming a school of the future

The new wealth of data the school is consistently creating is visible thanks to Chrome Education Upgrades, giving the school real-time insights as to what is working effectively and identify areas for improvement. “Prior to Google, I had to rely on teachers to tell me something wasn’t working. Now if there are tech issues, or something isn’t right, I know right away and can address it immediately.”

Get in touch



Contact Searce Technologies on 738 3370 132 to find out how Google for Education can help you achieve your teaching and learning goals.

