

Educake Case Study
Turves Green Girls' School
Birmingham





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Background

Turves Green Girls' School is a small 11-16 suburban comprehensive girls school, with about 700 students. The school performs above the national average, with 65% of students achieving a Grade C or better in English and Maths GCSEs in 2016 (England's average is 59%) and students' average Progress 8 score was above the national average at +0.42. Deprivation is above average, with 54% of students eligible for free school meals at any time during the past 6 years, compared to the national average of 29%. The school was rated as good in their most recent OFSTED report.

Turves Green Girls' School was one of the first schools to use Educake over three years ago, and their students have answered over a quarter of a million Educake questions. We talked to Mike Jackson, Head of Science, and began by asking why Turves Green Girls School started using Educake:

Why did you start using Educake?

Mike: I was looking for a way to improve the consistency of homework and enable me to monitor it. Educake was easy to use and more straightforward for pupils than other online

resources I considered. The questions it provides are useful but not overly complex, focusing on ensuring understanding in a straightforward way.

How did you get other teachers to use Educake?

We held a team meeting to discuss why we were going to start using the system, and staff accepted this and then worked with Educake. Educake provides stats on how many questions each class is answering and these are used to check all groups are being given homework and to highlight any problem areas.

What do you use Educake for?

We began using Educake for homework, with occasional use in class. We are now increasingly encouraging pupils to set their own questions for revision and further development (they pick the topics and then Educake creates a test for them).

Educake is particularly useful to highlight issues with a topic across a group – so it can be really interesting to reflect on questions with the class that lots of them have struggled with. This means effective assessment for teachers and fast feedback for pupils.

Do the students enjoy Educake?

Yes, there are very few complaints from pupils compared to other packages – both about the questions and the technical side of using Educake. I'm not pretending that they're saying they love their homework, but they do do it.

Recently we have noted that some pupils are using Educake extensively independently of their

homework. Some of the pupils were not obvious ones either!

What has the response been from teachers?

Teachers find it easy to use and it saves a lot of work. They all use it regularly and encourage pupils to use it independently too.

What is your IT set up like?

We have five computer rooms in the school and a small number of iPads.

How does Educake compare to other digital resources you've tried?

Educake is much more straightforward to use and reliable across different hardware. I've tried other packages and found them complicated to use or had issues with pupils using them. In fact, I had a nice A-star pupil come to me and ask me to stop using one of the other packages, because it wasn't useful.

Pupils do not complain about Educake as they did about the previous package we used.

The questions in Educake are of a nature pupils can tackle and they receive feedback. In my opinion attempts to have longer questions and extended skills development does not work and Educake is all the better for not doing this.

What has your overall impression of Educake been?

Excellent. It's extremely helpful and is good to see regular new features. It's given me a way of making sure that we can set the pupils regular questions, without increasing staff workload.

Also, if I or another member of staff have a query about Educake, we can just email them and get a very quick answer back. That's really useful.

Overall, I think Educake is exceptional value for money, especially because we can use it for all our students, at both Key Stage 3 and GCSE.

Mike Jackson was speaking to Charley Darbishire, founder of Educake, in March 2017.

Educake

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