

INFOMENTOR is FLEXIBLE to BEST SUIT YOUR SCHOOL

Southbrook is a successful secondary special school for pupils, aged between 11 and 16, with varied complex needs and abilities including moderate or severe learning difficulties, social emotional and behavioral difficulties and Autism. Pupils may also have speech, language and communication difficulties, sensory impairments and / or physical disabilities.



When we first heard that National Curriculum levels were going we saw it as an opportunity to devise an assessment system that really reflected our pupils and the small steps of progress they make. I devised a Progression Pathways system and all subject coordinators created their own pathway that was suitable for their curriculum.

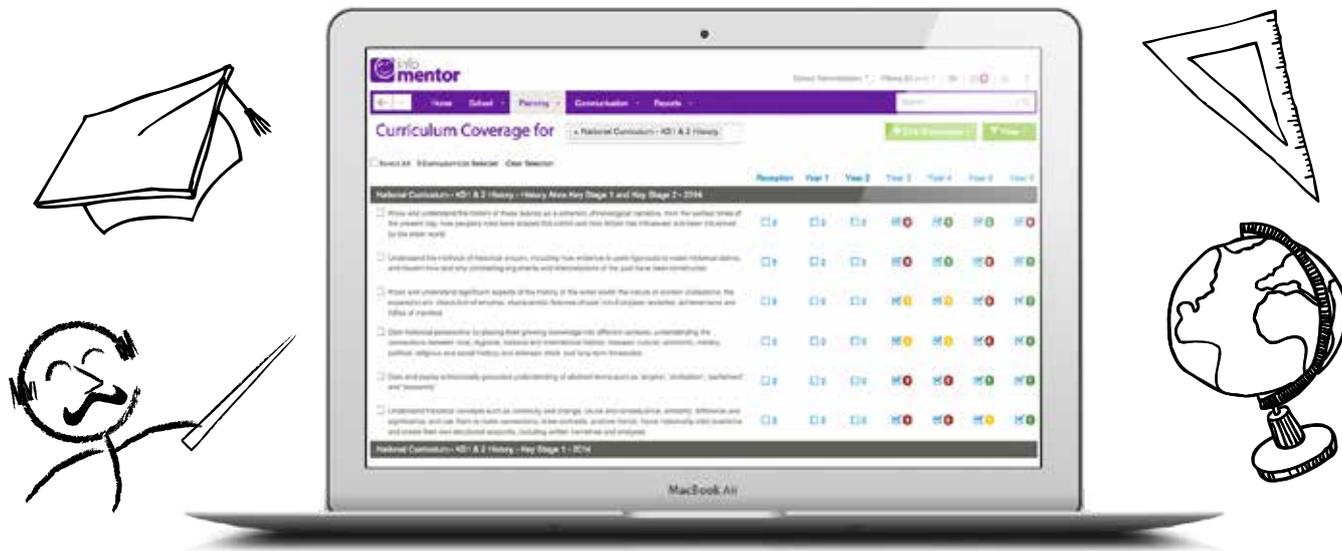
We then started looking for an easy but effective way to record, track and analyse our assessments against our Progression Pathways. I tried creating my own Excel spreadsheet but it became too complicated. I then started looking at external providers but they only offered their own assessment system that was not flexible enough for our bespoke needs.

I met InfoMentor at the Bett conference and straight away realised they were a different company who were interested in working with us to provide us with exactly what we wanted and needed for our school.

In addition to enabling us to complete our assessments, the system also allowed us to plan units and lessons, share resources and make assessments available to all staff, pupils and parents. Once we started using InfoMentor we were also able to complete our reports for parents which has been easier for staff, and parents have reported that they now receive much better information in a clearer format.

Here are some of the main reasons why InfoMentor is suitable for Special Schools and why we chose to use them:

- It is flexible to be used in the way that best suits your school, staff and pupils.
- The company are very keen to work with you to achieve what you want from the system and are keen to hear your views on future developments.



- The analysis and tracking of assessment is easy to complete and it is very clear to see progress for individual pupils as well as groups.
- Our SIP, LA and an HMI inspector have looked at our Progression Pathways and our InfoMentor assessment system and have all praised it.
- It is very quick and easy for me as Data/Assessment coordinator to produce reports for leadership team, staff, governors and external agents or parents.

InfoMentor has enabled us to teach more effectively and become more student focused. Here are some of the key features that allow that:

- Because it is quick and easy to make assessments staff are now accessing regularly (rather than just when NC levels were due to be handed in as before)
- You can save evidence against individual statements in the form of pictures, videos, audio and Word, which means we can clearly demonstrate what a child can do and has done.
- The curriculum coverage tool shows teachers what they have taught and where the gaps are in teaching.
- Curriculum Grids allow us to build a picture of pupil knowledge and what groups and individual pupils' next steps are.
- The planning tool puts everything in one place: plans, resources, assessments etc so they are all linked. As a result staff are now much more focused on using formative assessments to inform their planning.

InfoMentor has helped our school reduce the time teachers spend doing the day to day admin regarding planning.

- Planning is very quick and easy and can be shared with other staff who can then quickly adapt it for their groups.
- Once you have made a plan you can use it again anytime, adapting it as and when it is needed.
- Assessments are linked to planning so it constantly reminds the teacher to focus on AFL.
- Report writing time has been greatly reduced, whilst at the same time we have produced much better Annual Review and End of Year reports for parents.
- It is very quick and easy to show parents how their child is getting on.

Working with InfoMentor has been hugely beneficial to Southbrook and the support from day one has been incredible. Every step of the way the support we get is very quick and personalised. InfoMentor are invested in making continual improvements to their site and, from our experience, will work with schools to make the system work for you.

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To find out more
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