

MUSAC SUPPORT SERVICES

As a MUSAC support specialist, Edtech offers an unparalleled range of services, from implementation through to training and ongoing support. Customised assessment and reporting ensures SMS solutions are meaningful, current and fully utilised by key staff.

“It was important to ensure MUSAC worked well for us and met our needs – and Edtech has helped us do that very well.”

*Dave Appleyard, Principal
Rata Street School, Wellington*



MUSAC transformed at Rata Street School

Edtech has helped Rata Street School to revamp its existing implementation of the MUSAC Student Management System (SMS), transforming the school’s ability to manage information on everything from student progress to National Standards reporting.

The MUSAC suite of applications is designed for all aspects of school administration, including management of assessment, curriculum, attendance, students, staff, library resources, finances and assets. Rata Street School in Lower Hutt, Wellington, had been using MUSAC for many years but was not extracting maximum value from the software.

The school was receiving technical support remotely via the MUSAC helpdesk in Palmerston North but was unaware of the capabilities MUSAC has for centralising and managing information related to schooling improvement. Teachers were using mainly paper-based systems to record student achievement data. Staff were recording data in several places at once, and data collation and analysis was ‘manual, time consuming and problematic,’ says Principal Dave Appleyard.

“We didn’t have the support we needed to really make the most of the system. We didn’t know what we didn’t know,” he says.

Edtech support

That changed when Edtech started providing support for Rata Street School. Edtech’s MUSAC Services Consultant Mike Maguire collaborated with the school to review how it was using MUSAC and demonstrate the system’s wider capabilities. He helped establish the school’s requirements and create a roadmap to develop the system to efficiently meet those needs.

“Mike knows what schools need and he knows our school environment. He has a thorough knowledge of MUSAC and how the system can best support school administrators, teachers and leaders,” Dave says.

“We really appreciated having Mike onsite so we could plan things, mull over our requirements and tweak and refine the system to fit our needs. Having that face-to-face dialogue was really important to us.”

Immediate improvements

Edtech made initial improvements in a matter of days that immediately helped the school use the system better. MUSAC is now flexible and responsive to the school’s needs, and the various stakeholders are using the system proactively.

Teachers are using the information in the system to inform teaching and learning – monitoring students’ goals and

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◀ progress and reporting to parents and students. Leaders are using comparative data to track trends and progress over time, and to identify students at risk, or requiring assistance. Data collation and analysis is easy and fast, so information is readily available for use by teachers, leaders and administrators. Staff can easily generate reports that meet specific needs, such as performance reports for the Board of Trustees.

Responsive to change

The system is also responsive to emerging Education sector needs, including eAR (electronic Attendance Register – the MoE-approved software for recording student attendance on student management systems), National Standards reporting requirements, and the Ultranet Learning Management System.

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***Dave Appleyard, Principal
Rata Street School, Wellington***

“Edtech has positioned us to meet changing needs and requirements in the Education sector,” Dave Appleyard says. “We are in the process of implementing Edtech’s Ultranet and I can see that MUSAC will integrate really well with it.”

Collaboration and ongoing support

Edtech provides ongoing support and advice to the school, both onsite and remotely. Dave says remote access to the system lets Edtech’s Mike Maguire see exactly what the issues are and help resolve them immediately.

“He enables us to be nimble – when we decided to change the way we recorded ethnicity information to make it more specific, for example, Mike was able to make the required template changes overnight. It was so beneficial for us that he could do that,” Dave says.

For more complex, larger projects, the school meet face-to-face with Edtech for an initial consultation to discuss requirements. Mike works on the solution design and takes it back to the school for review and refinement before trialling it.

Dave Appleyard says having someone local to support the school with a collaborative approach, transparent communication, flexibility and ‘can-do attitude’ are the key success factors.

“Edtech is extremely responsive and supportive,” Dave says. “Our relationship with Mike is excellent. He knows us. We can discuss ideas and needs freely. We feel we can contact him about anything and he responds really quickly.”

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Highlights

Rata Street School in Wellington is a Decile 1 co-ed state primary school for years 1 – 6. The school has approximately 400 students and a staff of 42.

Original problem

- School unaware of full MUSAC potential
- No local support
- Paper-based, manual systems
- Multiple data silos
- Data collection, analysis & reporting laborious
- Key staff not fully engaged with MUSAC

The Edtech MUSAC solution

- MUSAC tailored to school’s needs
- Local support – onsite and remote
- Single source of readily accessible data
- Reporting – to Board and Parents – quick and easy
- School positioned to meet changing needs and requirements

About Edtech

Edtech is the market leader in providing sophisticated, specialist ICT solutions to New Zealand’s Education sector.

Founded in 1992, Edtech’s value proposition is in its unique ability and track record of working with schools to help them build and manage integrated ICT systems spanning ICT infrastructure; electronic administration, financial and accounting solutions; software hosting solutions; and the Edtech-developed Ultranet Learning Management System.



Contact us

**Freephone: 0508 EDTECH
(0508 338 324)**
enquiries@edtech.co.nz
www.edtech.co.nz

Edtech Auckland
(Head Office)
p: 09-913 9393
f: 09-913 9394
570 Mt Wellington Highway,
Mt Wellington, Auckland 1062

Edtech Hamilton
p: 07-839 7129
f: 07-838 3377
The Radio Network Building
Hardley Street
Hamilton 3200

Edtech Palmerston North
p: 06-354 9126
f: 06-354 9135
9 Edgeware Road
Palmerston North 4410