

# How Kirk Smeaton CE Primary School is streamlining the way they work with Arbor MIS



**"Having everything in one place is brilliant. Arbor has meant we can take out all the hassle of the way we work and start to make things watertight."**

Kirk Smeaton CE Primary School is a 4-11 school in Pontefract, who have been using Arbor since April 2022 with support from NYES Digital. We spoke to Anita Marnier, School Business Manager, at the school about their move to Arbor.

## Before Arbor

Kirk Smeaton had different reasons for moving to Arbor, but the impetus was their new Breakfast Club. It highlighted how complex their previous MIS made some processes, such as invoicing, bookings, parent permissions and admin.

This spoke to a wider problem of needing to simplify processes by having everything in one place, in order to reduce hassle and save staff time in all parts of the system.

There was also a desire to move to the cloud, so that staff could access the MIS from anywhere.

## Moving to Arbor

Anita initially heard about Arbor through a roadshow, as well as from recommendations within her SBM network.



ANITA MARNER, SCHOOL  
BUSINESS MANAGER  
KIRK SMEATON CE  
PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Primary school**



**Students: 104**



**Located: Pontefract**



**Support: NYES**



After a lot of research, they felt Arbor was more advanced than their previous MIS and better suited to the needs of their primary school.

Any worries about the migration process were alleviated as Arbor made sure everything was ready before the school's Go Live and provided a lot of guidance along the way. The school were able to purchase Arbor through the NYES Digital framework, which instilled further confidence in the decision to switch, as the school knew they would be in safe hands for the change. NYES Digital helped the school to prepare for migration and also provided full system training to make sure all staff were up to speed with the system from the Go Live.

There were also few concerns from the wider team about getting to grips with a new MIS and how this change would affect different members of staff, but the Kirk Smeaton team have been able to quickly get on with using Arbor MIS and find the interface easy to use. The joined-up nature of the MIS means that the data team can easily delegate tasks and so they are able to further streamline the way they work as an organisation.

## The difference Arbor has made

The key thing for Kirk Smeaton Primary has been using the MIS to make their systems more watertight - and within a few months have already seen how the MIS is helping to reduce their workload in terms of manual admin.

With both clubs and trips, as well as general communications to parents, Arbor helps with much of the heavy lifting. This is especially important given that the school are keen to communicate well with the parents and keep them in the loop with newsletters etc. It also means the school have a record of everything that's been sent and when, and in one place.

## Working with NYES Digital

Kirk Smeaton use NYES Digital for support and have felt fully supported throughout their journey, with on-hand support for any queries they've had. In Anita's own words, "our MIS Officer, Sarah, has been fantastic... her support has been fabulous throughout."



Communication is massively important to us, and now we have it all in one place. We especially make use of the Arbor App and sending out messages this way.

ANITA MARNER

