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CASE STUDY

How Maharishi School Trust improved data management and parental engagement

Building strong relationships with parents and pupils more easily thanks to SchoolPod and Teachers2Parents working in harmony



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About the trust

Founded over 40 years ago around a farmhouse kitchen table, the Maharishi School Trust has grown into a thriving community. With one primary school and one secondary school setting, and small class sizes averaging 20 students, the Trust prides itself on creating a nurturing, close-knit environment where every child is known and supported.

Around 55 staff members work across the two sites, and we spoke to **School Business Manager Paul Magee** and **Assistant Business Manager Fiona Casey** to find out the impact of SchoolPod and Teachers2Parents on day-to-day operations and parental engagement.

Both products have been in place for over ten years, well before both Fiona and Paul joined the Maharishi School Trust, and are now fully integrated into both Paul and Fiona's responsibilities and job roles, as well as many other staff members across the trust.

Maharishi School Trust

ABOUT

- Wigan, Lancashire
- 231 pupils on roll
- Using SchoolPod since 2013

PRODUCTS

- SchoolPod
- Teachers2Parents

TEAM



Fiona Casey
Assistant Business Manager



Paul Magee
School Business Manager

> **"I've had a lovely experience with SchoolPod and T2P, and I've evolved in my job at the same time SchoolPod and T2P have evolved."**



The challenge

Before adopting **SchoolPod** and **Teachers2Parents** over a decade ago, Maharishi School Trust's processes were almost entirely paper-based. Data management, attendance tracking, and parent communications were time-consuming and prone to duplication, especially during key periods such as Census reporting and September enrolment.

By the time Paul Magee (School Business Manager) and Fiona Casey (Assistant Business Manager) joined the team, the school had already transitioned to digital systems, but the challenge was to use these tools to their full potential to support data-led decision making and strengthen parent engagement.

The solution

Today, SchoolPod is fully embedded across the Trust's operations — from attendance and safeguarding to staff management and reporting. Fiona describes it as "flexible and easy to use... everything I need in one place."

> **"I used a different MIS in my previous school, but SchoolPod is far more responsive, both in how it works and how the team listen to feedback."**

Meanwhile, T2P supports all parental communication, and is mostly managed by the school's Communications and Data Officers, to ensure every parent stays informed without being overwhelmed by messages.

Real impact

Smarter, faster data management

Tasks that once took hours now take minutes. Paul explains: "My predecessor spent hours exporting and duplicating data for the census. With SchoolPod, we generate the reports in seconds."

Fiona praises SchoolPod's data fragmentation features that make it easy to extract SEND, Pupil Premium, Free School Meals, and attendance information. "Everything feeds into DfE submissions by 9am, and it's seamless."

Evidence-based insights

The school recently held an INSET day focused on the Pupil Tracker and Subject Access in SchoolPod. These allow staff to compile a full picture of each child's journey — from incidents and interventions to wellbeing trends.



Fiona explains it's a common occurrence for parents see that children are unhappy, or notice escalations, or that the children have been told off, and they don't understand why, so they blame the school.

However, these evidence-based reports, which really paint a picture of the child's time with the school and what measures were put into place, were able to tell a story and show parents every instance in which different staff members noted incidents or shifts in the child's behaviour.

> **"It's been a game changer. We can now show parents a clear timeline of events when concerns arise, helping everyone understand the full story."**

Stronger parental trust and engagement

Through Teachers2Parents, the school maintains the right balance of communication; enough to keep families informed, but not overwhelmed. SMS messages are used for urgent notices (e.g. snow days or absences), while email is reserved for detailed updates and responses.

The audit trail has also been invaluable. When a parent challenged attendance data, staff were able to produce clear T2P logs of every absence notification that term.

Paul thinks the school has found a good balance thanks to T2P, as parents no longer complain about receiving either too much communication or not enough.



Teachers2Parents is an integral part of the trust's parental engagement policy. Parents and carers now know more about what's going on in school, especially at secondary level, where children become more independent and parents aren't present as often.

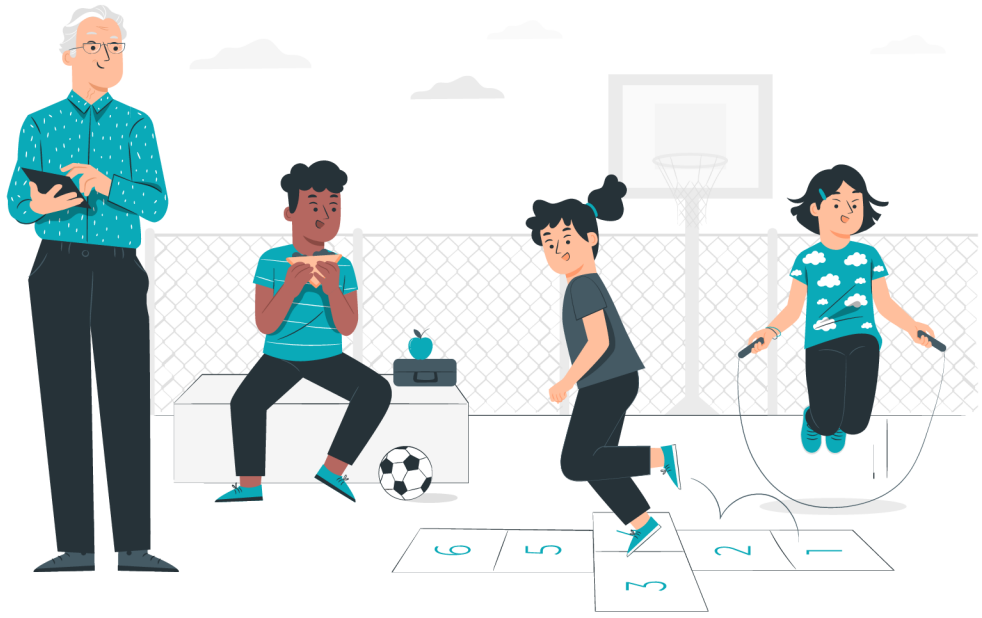
Now they know about lateness or homework through T2P, and consequently, children know too, which has an impact on the way they behave. Fiona says students tend to be more conscious of the consequences of bad behaviour, because they know their parents will find out the truth.

Empowering all staff

From teachers to lunch supervisors, everyone contributes to pupil records.

> **"Our lunchtime staff now log behaviour observations after lunch, and doing this makes them feel more valued," Fiona shares. "If we didn't have this system, half the story would be missing."**

This way, Fiona is able to get a 360° view of a child's time at school. For instance, she recently reported an argument that started at breakfast club and later escalated to kicking a football at each other in the playground.



She was then able to send an email from T2P to the parents and explain every detail of what happened. The staff are also able to communicate with each other as well as engaging with parents.

Meaningful and reliable support

Fiona says she really feels her feedback is listened to, as our support team do everything they can to make changes to accommodate her requests. She also feels very supported when she just needs quick guidance, expressing her dislike for unhelpful AI-first support that some other providers rely on.

“I’m the opposite of a techie,” she says. “My role revolves a lot around data and technical stuff, but if I can use it confidently and teach other people how to use it, then that’s what I need.”

Results at a glance

- **Admin time savings** – especially during September enrolment
- Faster, more accurate **census reporting**
- **Enhanced safeguarding** through full pupil histories
- Improved **parental engagement** and transparency
- Increased **staff collaboration** across departments

> **“SchoolPod and T2P are all I need them to be: reliable, flexible, and responsive. I can’t recommend them highly enough!”**

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