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## A lesson planning phenomenon...

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The Eastwood School in Essex has discovered that two heads – or even three – are better than one when it comes to creating good lesson plans. As one of the first schools to use the new SIMS Curriculum & Lesson Planner software from Capita Children’s Services, they are experiencing first-hand the huge benefits of creating plans quickly and easily, then sharing lesson materials with other members of staff.

John Arnold, IT Manager at The Eastwood School said: "Previously, we had no single point for co-ordination of curriculum delivery and lesson planning. One clear benefit of SIMS Curriculum & Lesson Planner is that it brings all of the planning together. Teachers can share and update existing plans to ensure that the content of lessons and students benefit, without increasing teacher workload." He continued: "For the first time we also have a whole-school view of the curriculum in one place so we can see where modifications need to be made."

Teachers all over the UK spend countless hours every week planning lessons manually and SIMS Curriculum & Lesson Planner helps ease this burden. The software allows teachers to create, update and store lesson plans online. This collective ability to improve lesson quality in real-time means that the learning needs of students are prioritised. There is now time to be more creative, more innovative and find exciting resources that can fundamentally change lessons.

"We appreciate that there is no greater benefit in the classroom environment than a group of happy, stimulated and attentive students. By removing what has traditionally been a cumbersome manual task, SIMS Curriculum & Lesson Planner allows teachers to spend time focusing on what they really want to do – teach effectively," said Grahame Palmer, Head of Marketing at Capita Children’s Services.

There are other important benefits. Teacher absence need no longer be a problem as the cover teacher can access the planned lesson and deliver the appropriate material so that students’ learning is not affected.

Using SIMS Curriculum & Lesson Planner, teachers can swiftly create their own professional lesson plans saving hours in planning, preparation and assessment time. A plan can be created from scratch, or simply by importing ready-made plans or 'study units', available from many local authority and Department for Education and Skills' websites. Teaching resources, presentation material, weblinks and notes can be attached to the lesson plans, so that a teacher can access everything they need from their computer at the start of the lesson.