

► Written by **LifeStyle Software**

capturing school life as it is lived

School Life, a new software package from LifeStyle Software is dramatically changing the way that schools look at digital media

The veritable explosion in the use of digital photography, and the proliferation of media files being generated by children in word-processing, painting and other programs, presents schools with exciting opportunities. However it also puts pressure on IT-literate staff to organise and manage access to this treasure trove of media. Issues of privacy and security arise, and these are often resolved by restricting access.

CREATE A MULTI-MEDIA LIBRARY

A new product called 'School Life' has come to the rescue. The software provides a novel and intuitive way of accessing schools' media files from any PC on the network. Events are recorded in multiple diaries and linked to media files and also to people, places and curriculum areas using a single simple 'drag and drop' interface. In this way a multi-media library is created, which can be browsed and exploited in a number of different ways. For example, it only takes a few clicks to generate multi-media slideshows featuring pictures, videos and scrolling stories with background music and voice annotation – great for showing in the school reception area or posting to the school's web site.

GENERATE DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS

Pupils enjoy linking pictures of themselves taking part in school events and activities along with their scanned work to create their own portfolios. Trudie Masterson, Headteacher at Parkgate House Prep School in London, said "School Life offers us exactly what we were looking for: a way to develop digital portfolios for our children to show on a laptop in their interviews for the top London day schools." Portfolios can be written to CD and passed on to parents and are a great way to give each child a personal record of what they have experienced and achieved during the year.

BUILD AN EVIDENCE BASE

St John the Baptist CE Primary School in Stockton-on-Tees, looks to the software as an 'evidence base'. Headteacher Maxine Coss explains "There is so much going on in school it's sometimes difficult to remember everything we've done! School Life's 'LifeLine' beautifully highlights the key events for each class and the school as a whole. We can also search by date, curriculum area,



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class and child to quickly locate and display pictures of events and examples of children's work, making it an ideal way to monitor and celebrate progress. It provides a very useful evidence base for OFSTED inspections and helps us build Foundation Stage profiles and manage year six transitions.”

BRING EVERYTHING TOGETHER

School Life is much more than a tool for organising and showcasing work. Sharing details of events illustrated by pictures and scanned work it can create a real sense of community with members of the school, parents and visitors becoming much more aware of its personalities and activities. Children

can take away and share their memories of school life with their family and friends more effectively than we would ever have thought possible just a few years ago. Now, just imagine the fun if we could all browse through our school days and those of our older children ...

► FOR MORE INFORMATION

To get a good look at what School Life can do, call 0845 226 3341 or e-mail info@lifeStyle-software.com, to request an information pack and CD containing a demonstration video and a free 30 day trial version of School Life.