



# St James College

## Spring Hill QLD



## About

St James College in Brisbane is a Catholic co-educational college for Years 7-12. The school hosts a diverse cohort of students with a focus on developing engaged students equipped with the skills necessary for the future. The College focuses on being well rounded, with accomplishment in academics, music, leadership and sport equally valued.

## Carolyn Whyatt

The Head of Library and Digital Integration Innovation is passionate about technology and teaching and equipping students with skills for digital literacy. In this case study she discusses how ReadCloud is used to make her life easier while building engagement with students across all year levels.

## Background

St James is focused on giving access to the right tools and resources for students and staff. In her role, Carolyn's priority is supporting the students and making sure they're able to use the products they need for their learning. Part of this is matching content to each student's ability and providing everything they need to stay engaged.

## Needing a better way to manage and organise access to content

But this isn't always easy. Managing licences for students and the changes between classes that occur throughout the year was a huge challenge for Carlyon and her team, with the whole process being very time consuming and not cost effective.

“

*I inherited this Excel spreadsheet of all the licensing and all of the publishers have varying levels of access... and at our school, we have students coming in and going out fairly often and so with those changes .. we would actually have to send emails to publishers, and that becomes hugely problematic when you're doing that often and with a number of kids.*

## Choosing the right solution for St James

Carolyne sought a tool that could help her minimise this burden while also boosting learning engagement. Doing due diligence to invest in a product for the long term was a key criteria.

“

*I don't want to be using a product that's older and clunky and they're not doing updates for... when you go to buy new technology, it's always worth investing in the newest and the highest spec that you can afford. I think that way too about the online resources that I'm collaboratively choosing for our school.*

# Case Study

## St James College



The fact that ReadCloud is Australian made and creates a customised interface that is direct to the needs of St James' classes and students was a key factor in choosing ReadCloud.

The school particularly liked that it's "not one big bowl" - instead, the app serves exactly what each student and educator needs for their individual classes.

### All resources in one place

In addition to helping St James manage their online licensing and getting rid of spreadsheets, the school enjoys having a single point of access for all their online learning tools and resources.

“

*"The benefit of ReadCloud is that we've got one portal [with] our Edrolo, our ClickView, our Education perfect, our digital resources - they're all in one portal and so the kids, if they've already signed in, they just click the title or the bookmark... and they're in and they're working."*

The seamlessness of the app makes access as simple as a click. It also helps their teachers to connect with students remotely, being particularly vital to online learning during times of disruption caused by COVID-19 as well as connecting with students studying online overseas.

### Making it easier for teachers to teach and maintain student focus

“

*"The other benefit is when you've got an activity that you want them to do, that you can put [the embedded] link ... so the kids are not wasting time. When kids were just logging into lots of different resources, our younger kids would be confused and our older kids would deliberately waste time. So it's just very time effective [using ReadCloud]. You don't need to waste time when you are teaching, you want focused attention and direct access."*

This is made easier for St James by the fact that they can separate and allocate resources by individual classes, with other solutions in the market only able to segment by year level cohort, which makes it confusing when you're teaching different subjects and not all students are doing the same subjects in the same semester.

“

*"ReadCloud is entirely customised. And because of the fantastic time table facilities, when they open it, at the very top is going to be the class that they've got there."*

### Customising reading for level and having conversation with teachers

As a pedagogical tool, ReadCloud is also helping Carolyn and St James College to engage students in literacy and learning.

“

*"I think that the benefit of the ReadCloud module with the textbook interface is that they have subscribed to [the] Immersive Reader so that our diverse kids who study English as a second language and dyslexic [students] can have it read to them. They can change it into their own language so that they can increase their comprehension."*

The ability to have a conversation with their teacher inside ReadCloud and their content also proves valuable in helping build student confidence and communication.

“

*[It's] really amazing functionality that they can message their teacher inside ReadCloud and get a message back. So if they're a bit shy or not sure, certainly on that virtual learning interface, they can actually get in and send a message that they know that a teacher can respond to. The tools inside that are quite revolutionary, compared to other products on the market."*

