



Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards make a difference in education

School system is facing multiple challenges nowadays, one of them being the need to operate in different languages across borders. Digitalisation is enabling multilingualism in education in ways that weren't previously possible. While public schools have always struggled with high bureaucracy and lack of advanced subsidies, the private sector often shows higher dynamics and flexibility. An innovative Virtual Reality approach was developed in Naples, at a private trilingual school, thanks to solutions provided by Ricoh.

Concept development

"We are a trilingual Italian school recognised by the Ministry of Education. The school offers Italian children the opportunity to learn Chinese and English, in addition to their mother tongue", says Sergio Napolitano – owner and promoter of the East Naples Educational Centre. Mr. Napolitano highlights that the primary school is unique in Italy, established in a district with a strong Chinese presence. The children attending the Centre were all born in Italy, but often come from Chinese backgrounds. Previously they could only study in Italian, but now they have the opportunity to learn to read and write in the language of their Chinese parents, in addition to English. By the end of primary school they will be able to write and speak in three languages.

Meeting with Ricoh

Teaching methods today have changed, we use workshops and interactive tools. "Chinese children live in an environment already permeated by digital technology, so we had to look for innovative tools that – complying with ministerial standards – would offer the advantages of a more advanced didactic approach. We discovered Ricoh at just the right time: they provided truly cutting-edge solutions to meet our needs", says Tata De Luliis, Principal and coordinator of the East Naples Educational Centre.



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Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards break down barriers in language

The school has installed in its classrooms nine 65 inch Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards. This enabled the centre to offer its students a new and more engaging way to learn and to study. The advantages of the Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards are the interoperability (it's simple to connect the devices with tablets and PCs) and the powerful Optical Character Recognition (OCR) that allows the board to recognise the hand-written Chinese signs and convert them into readable format. Teachers can save documents as PDF with a searchable text function and subsequently distribute them to the students via email. Ms De Luliis highlights the memory capacity of these devices. "What is lacking in traditional schools – where nevertheless they do great things – is the possibility to save materials electronically and refer to them in the future. This problem has now been solved with the help of Ricoh Interactive Whiteboards. Teachers can retrieve work that has been done previously and review it, making any necessary changes in their own time. This solution is particularly helpful for new teachers who can find in the archives what their

colleagues have done in previous years. Digital technology is important because it involves students in the classroom and at home, and it is also suitable for training and support of pupils with special educational needs".

Looking towards the future

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