

Promoting accessibility with the ActivPanel

Amanda Dalton, Teaching and Learning Coach at Swan Hill Specialist School, Victoria, shares her classroom experiences with the ActivPanel

At Swan Hill Specialist School, we have been using the ActivPanel for a number of years with great results, and had a long-term plan to install an ActivPanel in each of our classrooms to make sure all of our students have equal access to interactive technologies.

I'm excited to say we completed this project in 2020, with help from a Promethean Grant win which accelerated the process and helped us free up some budget for other key resources. We use our ActivPanels across the curriculum, supporting all ages and stages with relevant activities including phonics apps for audio modelling and interactive literacy and numeracy exercises - but as a specialist school that caters to students with a diverse range of needs, the true value of the ActivPanel for us is its accessibility and how we can use it to support each and every learner.

How the ActivPanel makes our lessons suitable for all

A major benefit of the ActivPanel here at Swan Hill is that we can easily adjust the height so that students can use it while standing or seated, and it's just as comfortable for wheelchair users. However we choose to set it up, the wide viewing angle is also excellent as the whole class can see the content clearly and easily.

Having access to such a large touchscreen empowers those of our students with lower motor control skills, as they can navigate and use the ActivPanel comfortably whereas tablets and laptops can be tricky. It also gives them an interactive device which doesn't require a mouse, as some of our students prefer to use a stylus or their finger.

The ActivPanel also allows us to access a wide range of educational apps, including a selection that go beyond purely curricular applications. For example, we use 'Go Noodle' to give the students a variety of movement, relaxation and focus tasks which can really help to break up the day or give them something slightly different to think about





The children here absolutely love using the ActivPanel, and there's something for everyone. It's a great tool for getting all of our students involved, no matter their individual abilities or skills.

Amanda Dalton