

Bowland High

Name: Emma Robertson

Job role: Assistant Headteacher



What did you miss the most when you moved from Satchel One to Arbor?

The pupils really missed the control they had over the app. With Satchel, they were able to tick off homework when it was completed, communicate with their teachers, and receive reminders when a piece of work was due.

The staff really missed the efficiency of using the quizzes and resources they had already created, alongside the community resources. They also missed being able to remind pupils that homework was not completed and being able to send messages out to whole year groups. They also liked being able to set the same homework for more than one group at the same time.

Parents missed the information they were provided with on Satchel One and how easy it was to track which homework their child had completed and which were still outstanding.

How did the switch impact your school's staff, students, and parents?

The switch has been detrimental to all groups. We have had complaints from pupils and parents about using Arbor for homework, and since there isn't an Arbor app for pupils, this has caused problems too. For staff, it has taken longer to set work as we have had to set it all for individual classes. We had hoped we could streamline our apps to make it easier for pupils and parents and reduce our overall costs, but this hasn't been the case.

What made you decide to switch back to Satchel One?

We felt that pupils would be better supported, and our parents and pupils were complaining about Arbor and wanted a return to the previous system. We also considered the well-being of our staff and felt that this was a good way of reducing workload as the community resources and existing resources can be reused.