

Working together to learn

With teachers being more important than ever, Onvu Learning delivers empathetic professional development with its breakthrough technology

Teaching is often described as the world's most important profession, and the best teachers always seek to improve the impact of their teaching on their students. Onvu Learning is committed to improving the teacher-student experience by using technology to help teachers' professional development in an intelligent and empathetic way.

"In the simplest terms, we are here to enable educators of any description to reflect, collaborate and analyse their teaching and learning process," explains Matthew Tiplin, Onvu Learning Vice President. "Teachers can put their professional development in their own hands by using our technology to record themselves in the classroom with a 360-degree camera. They can then access the video and audio on our cloud platform to apply their reflections through whichever development framework they choose." Onvu Learning enables teachers and students to benefit at the same time, through the use of valuable and actionable insights.

As a former teacher and OFSTED inspector, Tiplin understands the challenges of the classroom and believes this lesson-capture technology provides a non-judgmental, non-invasive way for teachers at all levels to monitor and refine their teaching habits. Classroom footage is captured on a discreet 360-degree camera and microphone, so it can be viewed at leisure on the web-based platform to provide a full sense of context. Teachers can view footage alone or with training mentors, and the system can be used at any stage in an educator's career. Building on 20 years of education, video and technology experience, the Onvu Learning team believes its system will lower costs by improving teaching, increasing staff retention and reducing the need for travel for educational institutions engaged in standardisation exercises.

Tiplin emphasises the societal benefit of the approach, which he believes synergises with the vocational mindset of teaching. He takes inspiration from the Royal Family, both for its sense of public service and continued support of education charities. "One principle that the Royal Family has always promoted is children's right to an education in a happy, safe learning environment," he says. "We are aligned with those values and are focused on empathetic solutions, using technology, to underpin them. Every conversation we have is about how we might help the teacher and their class. That central value system is something The Queen has always promoted – a sense of duty towards something bigger."

Onvu Learning's parent company, Onvu Technologies, uses similar technology in other settings. Onvu Learning is currently being trialled in several schools to see how it can be applied around the world. Tiplin anticipates that, within three years, it will be a widely used educational tool, helping teachers improve and drive efficiencies in public spending while keeping safeguarding at the heart of their work.

"If you can see and hear what is happening using our approach, you gain situational awareness," Tiplin says. "This creates a singularly powerful opportunity to reflect on what's going on and create specific actionable outcomes as a consequence of your insights. People who buy into our system will be those who believe in the power of more frequent, low-stakes self-reflection, rather than less frequent high-stakes observation. There is a fundamental integrity in teaching and we respect that. Great schools have a culture that demonstrates a deep belief in teachers, and we want to enable this by assisting professional development as part of a clear and coherent programme that takes place over time."

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