

## Maverley Primary & Junior High School

**Location:** Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies.

**Type:** Co-educational primary and mid-secondary school.



### Helping students in Jamaica to develop strong English literacy skills



“ LiteracyPlanet captivates students’ attention ... It’s a way for students to develop their literacy skills while also having fun. ”

Kerry Taffe  
Head of Department for Reading

Maverley Primary and Junior High School is an all age school for approximately 650 students aged from six to 15 years. It is located in St. Andrew in Jamaica’s capital city of Kingston.

### Why did the school choose LiteracyPlanet?

Maverley Primary and Junior High School aims to develop students into well-rounded, responsible, capable and independent learners.

Teachers are proud that many of the school’s students do well in the Grade Nine Achievement Tests (GNAT) and gain acceptance into nearby senior secondary schools.

They understand the benefits to be gained from development of good English skills, and that students enjoy using technology for learning.

Literacy is a key focus for the school, and teachers work hard to provide students with the best possible support to achieve well in this area.

Head of the school’s Department for reading, Kerry Taffe, was made aware of LiteracyPlanet by the region’s Literacy Co-ordinator.

After reviewing the programme, she realised that LiteracyPlanet offered a way for students to develop their literacy skills effectively while also having fun.

# How the school uses LiteracyPlanet

The school benefits from investment from various external agencies, and provides students with access to multimedia devices, laptops and tablets for learning.

Although these resources are limited, all the teachers try to incorporate the use of the school's available technologies and digital resources into their classroom teaching.

Ms Taffe provides her Year 6 students with access to the devices in her class on a rotation system so they all have the chance to use LiteracyPlanet at school, as most of them do not have access to the internet at home.

She has observed how much LiteracyPlanet captivates students' attention and that they are excited to use it.

Ms Taffe often overhears students discussing their achievements and successes with each other while using the programme. It has helped one student in particular, who doesn't talk much, to be more confident and share what she is doing with the classmates sitting around her.

As a teacher Ms Taffe particularly appreciates the depth of LiteracyPlanet's content and being able to customise exercises.

"I especially like being able to input our own spelling lists, so students can interact more with these words to build familiarity, and the vocabulary lists that are available for all grade levels," she says.

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Students enjoy the gamified aspects of the programme, in particular being able to earn points and bonus rewards for doing well, the animations, and having a personal account with their own dashboard and login.

Because LiteracyPlanet is considered by the students to be an enjoyable activity, Ms Taffe often uses it as a segue to transition them more effectively from outdoor play to focused learning time.

"We often use it after the lunch break, as this relaxes and gently eases the students back into the teaching schedule."

**“ Students enjoy the bonus aspects, the animations, earning points, and having their own password and login. ”**

