

CASE STUDY

Portsmouth Grammar School



THE CLIENT /

Founded in 1732, Portsmouth Grammar School (PGS) provides education for boys and girls from nursery up to sixth form and is based in a former 19th Century army barracks.

The independent school prides itself on achieving excellence for its pupils and has been recognised as 'excellent' by the Independent Schools Inspectorate.

The introduction of mobile technology is fundamental to the school's digital learning objectives and PGS firmly believe that mobile technology is a key tool for enhancing both teaching and learning.



THE BENEFITS /

Total WiFi access to enable mobile learning - critical to the digital objectives

Total peace of mind for the school that the networks, pupils, staff and visitors are safe on-line

Installation cost less than alternative solutions

Easy management for PGS IT team

THE ISSUE /

The challenge was to introduce WiFi across the campus, allowing pupils to work from their own tablets, smartphones and other connected mobile devices within the classrooms.

The impregnable flint filled walls that were once ideal for withstanding enemy artillery attack, hindered and blocked radio signals. Even with network access points in every room, the thickness of the walls hampered connectivity.

Hand in hand with the access issues, the robust, secure protection of pupils, staff and visitors on-line is also of paramount importance.

THE SOLUTION /

After assessing and analysing the current constraints and the future needs Principal devised the solution and created a network of 150 wireless access points across the school, supporting more than 1,500 concurrently connected wireless devices. This approach reduced the cost of the deployment while delivering full WiFi signal across every part of the campus. The access points are connected to a network security appliance that authenticates a user as soon as they are on the school grounds, removing the need for laborious log in pages, or pre-shared keys for school owned devices. Guests can also join the network via a separate secure hotspot facility.

Once connected, the WatchGuard appliance delivers a 'defence-

in-depth' approach to securing all users and their activity with a suite of applications, including anti-virus, intrusion prevention, controlled access to websites, Spam blocker, and Application Control.

The improved security and connectivity provided has enabled PGS to further enhance its capabilities, for example to setup additional secure wireless networks on a 'pop-up' basis if required to support one-off events.

150 

**We created a network of
150 wireless access points**

WHAT PGS SAID /

Our pupils' devices are now securely, consistently and easily connected to the school network said Tim Howlett, Head of IT at PGS. And, not just that, the solution has enabled the school to introduce new technologies with confidence, knowing they will be secure, while it is reassuring to know that our more adventurous pupils aren't able to hack into the network!

WHAT PRINCIPAL SAID /

The historic building occupied by Portsmouth Grammar school presented a unique set of challenges but the combination of the access points and high level security appliances made it possible to deliver reliable connectivity and security at far less cost compared to other solutions. As well as providing a comprehensive service, the solution was relatively straightforward to implement

and manage, enabling the Portsmouth Grammar IT team to add this function to their ongoing management processes with little need for additional skills to be acquired.

On a final note, this is the largest wireless installation globally for Watchguard technology, and we can say with confidence that we have the tools to pretty much meet any eventuality.

CONTACT US /

Get in touch today and we'll help you find the best solution for your business.

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