Making success inevitable

Brighton Hill Community School
Reception

Sector:

Education

Products:

Meraki MR Wireless LAN

MS Switching

MS Centralised Cloud Management

Services:

Predictive WiFi survey, network design, installation, configuration, support.

Highlights:

- Brighton Hill Community School is a co-educational secondary school with 1100 pupils and 150 staff

- The school's existing network could not support its evolving IT requirements so needed replacing

- Redway Networks was chosen for its networking expertise to provide next-generation Cisco Meraki switching and WiFi

- Due to the simplicity of Meraki, network management has improved and administration time reduced

- Meraki has future-proofed the network and streamlined access to digital content which has improved the staff and student experience

Brighton Hill Community School

Brighton Hill Community School supports teaching, learning and innovation with high-performance WiFi and Switching from Redway Networks

Brighton Hill Community School has future-proofed its network and delivered a secure, mobile learning environment for its students and staff with a Cisco Meraki cloud networking solution including next-generation switching and wireless from Redway Networks.

With student numbers doubling in the last three years and plans to reach full capacity next year, the school's aging network needed replacing with a robust, secure solution that would deliver speed and efficiency across the school site and support high-quality teaching and learning.

Brighton Hill Community School is a co-educational secondary school located in Basingstoke, Hampshire. The school has 1100 pupils and 150 staff and prides itself on providing the best teaching and supportive environment where its students can thrive, so robust network connectivity is essential.

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REDWAY NETWORKS

Existing network needs replacing

Brighton Hill's existing network was ten years old and needed replacing with a more reliable, next-generation solution that would deliver sophisticated wired and wireless performance and support high density student and staff use.

Tony Eden, IT & Network Manager at Brighton Hill Community School says: "We were having coverage issues with our existing WiFi which had basically come to the end of its life. With our plans to increase student numbers and replace some of our IT computers with laptops and tablets, the first stage of the process was to upgrade the wireless network infrastructure."

Once the school had determined its requirements, it reached out to Redway Networks as it wanted to use a networking and wireless specialist as opposed to a general IT company.

Tony says: "When I spoke to Redway Networks I was really impressed with their technical product knowledge, the advice I received and their approach."

Brighton Hill selects Cisco Meraki

Once Redway Networks had been selected, its engineer performed a predictive WiFi survey using a map of the campus (which includes three separate buildings). In addition to shortcomings with the school's wireless network, the survey highlighted the need for an improved switching infrastructure in order for the school to get optimum performance out of its new WLAN and offer a superior student experience.

Following analysis of the survey data, Redway Networks' engineer determined a new network design, including both switches and APs, which was verified using Ekahau's heatmapping software.

As Tony is the only network manager at the school, Redway Networks knew that having different vendor solutions for WiFi and switching and with no central management would make on-site network management harder, so they recommended a Cisco Meraki cloud-networking solution to deliver a powerful, secure network that could be managed easily from a single cloud dashboard.

Tony says: "I really liked the Meraki product and as it is 'under one basket' so to speak, I knew Meraki would deliver a great insight into our network with scalable, cross-platform visibility."

Redway Networks delivers an exceptional service

Redway Networks provided a seamless installation of Brighton Hill's Meraki solution which included high-efficiency WiFi 6 access points, layer 2 PoE switches and endpoint systems management via the cloud dashboard with a 10-year software licence, automatic firmware and security updates, professional services and support.

Tony says: "Meraki has given us a robust, future proofed network that is really simple to use and with the cloud dashboard I can manage the network from anywhere, which gives me more network visibility. We currently have a bit of a hybrid between student laptops and desktops in our IT suites, but the plan is to bring ICT into the classroom environment with the roll out of more laptops, which I know will be seamless with Meraki."

"The whole experience with our new network infrastructure from Redway Networks was professional and the service we received was absolutely brilliant. The job was completed on time and the aftercare and support we've received has been excellent.

Tony Eden, IT & Network Manager, Brighton Hill Community School

Wireless Solutions. Made Simple.

Redway Networks is a leading WiFi specialist with expertise in the planning, design and installation of enterprise-wide wireless networking solutions that deliver affordability, scalability, and a frictionless deployment to its customers. Using world-leading wireless technology, Redway Networks supports all your connectivity needs and provides a robust foundation for your digital business.