

Great Baddow High School

Sector:



Education

Products:



Cambium cnPilot enterprise WiFi 6



Cambium cnMatrix edge-switches



Cambium cnMaestro cloud-managed dashboard

Services:

Predictive wired and wireless design survey, WiFi onsite validation survey, configuration, installation & support

Highlights:

- Great Baddow is a comprehensive secondary school in Chelmsford
- After investing heavily in devices and communications, it needed to replace its outdated Ubiquity WiFi and ad-hoc legacy switches with a more robust, future-proofed network
- The school chose a Cambium enterprise cloud-networking solution to deliver high-quality wireless connectivity with one pane of glass for easy network management
- Redway Networks delivered a great service throughout the project with 100% recommendation from the school
- Great Baddow is now benefitting from a secure, robust Cambium enterprise-networking solution with multi gigabit internet that has improved digital teaching and learning.



Great Baddow High School selects a cloud-based edge network with multi-gigabit Internet classroom connections to deliver better visibility and class of management across the school.

Great Baddow High School is benefiting from robust network performance and fast WiFi since installing a new Cambium next-generation wireless and switching solution from Redway Networks.

The new Cambium solution which includes enterprise-grade WiFi 6 access points and next-generation edge switching has improved network performance and security and enhanced the student experience.

Great Baddow High School is a comprehensive secondary school in Chelmsford, Essex. It is a science and sports college with first-class educational and recreational facilities including a library, conference room, laboratories, ICT suites, indoor swimming pool and gymnasium. Online resources are integral to its teachers, students, and staff so a robust network that supports collaborative, Internet-based learning is essential.

In a school where its students have most of their learning delivered via laptops, being able to get online with reliable WiFi is a priority for users. The school had been trying to make the most of its mixed estate for WiFi and networking which was outdated, under-supported and failing to keep up the online demands of the school's 1600 students and 1500 + network devices.

Rob Fuller, Head of IT Systems at Great Baddow School says: "Following the Covid pandemic we'd invested heavily in new laptops and equipment, but not in our underlying infrastructure.

Existing WiFi can't support the schools' numerous devices

Rob continues: "As we adopted more school devices, we started to see major creaks in our network which was a mix of Ubiquity WiFi and ad-hoc network switches. We also had no single management plane so identifying network issues was time consuming. We needed to upgrade to a more superior wired and wireless network and that offered better performance and could be managed and maintained easily through a cloud-based solution."

"We're a single site academy with plans to grow so when I researched platforms a main consideration was one management plane visibility for WiFi and switching that could be scaled easily. I saw Cambium Networks cloud-managed enterprise networking portfolio and it ticked all our boxes for performance, ease of management and budget."

Great Baddow then needed to find a Cambium IT reseller with the experience to deliver a high-quality solution and the school was recommended to Redway Networks.

Rob says: "From the initial phone call, Redway Networks was really helpful and offered great technical knowledge so I knew they were the company I wanted to work with. We supplied the school floor plans and after several conversations to establish our end goals, we decided Cambium was a great fit."



"Our legacy network has been transformed from a collection of underperforming parts to one unified Cambium platform with scalable, high-density WiFi"

Rob Fuller, Head of IT Systems, Great Baddow High School

Cambium's cloud-managed network delivers results

Redway Networks and the school's IT team worked closely together using Ekahau's WiFi planning software to create a predictive wireless design that would provide multi-gigabit connectivity to the school's classrooms. The wireless installation included 81 Cambium cnPilot Enterprise WiFi 6 cloud-based access points, 69 x Cambium cnMatrix next-gen edge switches and 2 x HPE Aruba core switches to provide a resilient backbone for the network. The network is managed using Cambium's cnMaestro cloud-management system which means any network issues can be highlighted and dealt with by Rob's team quickly.

Great Baddow's whole edge network is now cloud-based and more robust with much faster WiFi and complete network visibility.

Rob says: The service we received from Redway's engineer was fantastic. After the installation, Redway did an onsite WiFi validation survey to check the wireless network performance of our new network and everything was spot on "

Great Baddow is benefiting from Cambium's affordable enterprise-grade network which is delivering fast wireless connectivity from anywhere on campus. The network has been transformed from a collection of underperforming parts to one unified platform with scalable, high-density WiFi and wireless switches optimised for multi-gigabit connectivity.

Rob says: "Cambium is a robust, scalable network that can go up a level to support our future growth plans and I know the process will be straightforward as we have Redway Networks to fall back on. cnMaestro has brought the network together and is delivering complete end-to-end visibility which has reduced network administration time and its powerful visualisation capabilities means I have all the data I need for presenting to senior management."

Rob continues: "Cambium provides the capacity and signal strength to support e-learning. We're not doing anything new, but what we are doing can be done more reliably which has given staff more confidence using ICT in the classrooms."



Wireless & Networking Solutions. Made Simple.

Redway Networks is a leading IT infrastructure reseller with expertise in the planning, design and installation of enterprise-wide WiFi, network switching and security solutions to the UK education sector. We only endorse world-leading technology and deliver bespoke, affordable solutions that improve digital learning and transformative experiences.