

Jarrow School

Sector:



Education (secondary)

Products:



Enterprise Network Switches

Services:

Predictive WiFi survey, wired and wireless network design, installation, configuration, and support.

Highlights:

- Jarrow School is a co-educational secondary school with 800 + pupils and 100+ teaching staff
- The schools ageing Cisco network had come to the end of its life and needed replacing.
- Jarrow School selected Redway Networks' to provide a new future-proofed network as it was impressed with Redway's networking expertise and competitive pricing.
- The networking project was seamless and the school now has superior network performance with a 500% improvement in bandwidth and super-fast speeds of 60GB.



Jarrow School modernises its infrastructure and expands access to more innovative technology with a future-proofed networking solution from Redway Networks

Jarrow School has future proofed its network and improved bandwidth performance by 500% following a new switching project from Redway Networks. The school is now benefitting from high bandwidth network links from edge to core and has a network capable of delivering robust, secure connectivity to all of its devices and services.

Jarrow School is housed in a landmark building in Field Terrace, Tyne & Wear which opened in 2009. It has exceptional facilities which include a range of state-of-the art classrooms, studios, laboratories and PC suites. These facilities, backed up by multiple class sets of laptops and iPads across each faculty, ensure that all staff and students have easy access to the school's Virtual Learning Environment, Microsoft Office 365 resources, educational web content and the various subject specific apps they require to enable modern teaching and learning.

Jarrow School was reliant on an ageing Cisco network which had come to the end of its life. For the school's 800 + students and 100 + staff, heavily dependent on network traffic, this meant the limited bandwidth and inability to support emerging technologies was starting to negatively impact access to modern educational solutions, so Jarrow School knew it had to make a change.

Jarrow selects switching from Redway Networks

Ian Brown, Leader of ICT Development, says: "For wired networking we replaced our Cisco core switches with an Aruba chassis and installed a new Dell server core, but we were still seeing performance issues at the network edge."

Ian continues: "With no firmware updates available via Cisco, we also couldn't take advantage of new protocols, so we decided to upgrade our remaining network switches. We'd gone for Aruba's 5400R core switch so we set out to find an independent network vendor who could work with us to design a future proofed solution for our whole network and switching configuration, successfully completing our Aruba deployment."

Ian says: "Due to the scale of our project, we required three supplier quotes and Redway Networks' proposal stood out in terms of its network expertise, prompt access to products and competitive prices."

Great service from Redway

Redway Networks carried out a remote audit of the existing infrastructure and preconfigured the new edge switches before delivery to site, leading to a much more efficient install and reduction in downtime. Redway's engineer installed Aruba's 2930M switches using backplane stacking and multiple bonded 10Gbps high-speed links from network edge to core. A new eight port fibre module was installed in the current 5400R Aruba core switch allowing the school to benefit from existing fibre pairs running between the edge switch racks and the network core, which the school was previously unable to utilise. The backplane stacking, low latency and resiliency has future proofed Jarrow School's technology requirements.

Ian says: "It was great having our switches pre-configured by Redway's engineer. They arrived ready to rack so, other than some testing after install, there was very little I had to do, and I could get straight back to work. An infrastructure install like this can potentially put your whole site down for a long time, but with Redway Networks our project was seamless with great communication throughout. Once everything was in place, the handover was very concise and Redway Networks gave us all the tools and documentation we needed to succeed."

Investment for the future

Jarrow School's new switching has future proofed its network and opened access to more innovative technology making it a real investment for the future. The school has seen an immediate boost in network performance and is now able to utilise more of its fibre cabling. Ian says: "We've seen a substantial increase in bandwidth of approximately 500% across the whole school site going from 10GB in our Hub rooms to bandwidths of up to 60GB in our most populated edge stack. We've also saved considerable administration time deploying Microsoft Windows operating systems and applications to new and existing devices. Before our new switching we had to perform software imaging during school holidays due to the lack of bandwidth but now we can update a whole suite of thirty PCs in around an hour."

"Redway Networks gave us an outstanding experience. From our initial contact through to the network implementation, handover, and value for money everything was second to none. Our infrastructure is the backbone of our school so getting the project right first time was crucial, which is why we turned to Redway Networks."

Ian Brown, Leader of ICT Development, Jarrow 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.