

Manor Lodge School

Sector:



Education

Products:



MR – Meraki Wireless



MS – Meraki Switching



Meraki Dashboard

Services:

WiFi survey, network audit, professional services, support.

Highlights:

- Manor Lodge School selects a Meraki cloud-networking solution to future-proof its network for IoT and immersive learning.
- The school's existing WiFi had performance issues and limited ability to scale so needed replacing.
- Manor Lodge chose Redway Networks as they came highly recommended.
- Meraki has provided a solid IT infrastructure backbone for supporting the school's future technology needs.
- Manor Lodge is enjoying robust WiFi 6E capabilities across the school with a ten-fold increase in WiFi speed.
- Pupils can now work, learn, and collaborate on campus and Meraki has opened a world of technology opportunities.
- Complete visibility and control over the network has improved efficiency.



Manor Lodge School transforms its wireless network and supports immersive learning with Cisco Meraki.

Manor Lodge School has transformed its network into a future-proofed, connected campus for supporting IoT, including a proposed immersive learning classroom with Cisco Meraki MR wireless and MS switching from Redway Networks. The professionally designed, next-generation, Meraki network is delivering robust wireless coverage to pupils and staff across the school with a ten-fold increase in WiFi speed.

Manor Lodge is an independent primary school in Shenley, Hertfordshire for children aged 4-11 years old. The school is based in beautiful, open countryside, with outdoor learning spaces that provide 'classrooms without walls.' The school's twenty-six-acre campus, grade two listed manor house and STEAM-focused spaces create an inspiring environment for the school's 457 pupils.

The school's 10-year-old network infrastructure was a mix of end-of-life Cisco and Netgear which was overdue for a transformation. The WiFi 4/5 had performance limitations and could not support the connectivity and bandwidth required by the school. The network management overhead limited the ability to scale, so Manor Lodge needed a new scalable network that would future-proof the school and deliver robust, fast wireless connectivity and improved network management.

Matt Clackett, IT and Digital Services Manager at Manor Lodge School says: "Our network was end-of-life and increasingly complex to manage, making day-to-day management activities time-consuming. Reliable WiFi is vital for our new immersive learning classroom, and we knew that our existing WiFi needed replacing with a solid IT infrastructure backbone that would create the foundation for our future technology needs."

Manor Lodge selects Meraki from Redway Networks

For Manor Lodge School, the path to digital progression lay in a connected campus that would engage its pupils and deliver future learning experiences through virtual dialogue. Wireless reliability across its large campus and outdoor learning spaces needed to be improved and day-to-day operations, such as network troubleshooting, streamlined for Matt's IT team.

Matt says: "I wanted to continue with a Cisco network as I liked Meraki's easy-to-use dashboard with all the network management under one pane of glass. We decided to upgrade to Meraki's next-generation switches and WiFi as the foundation for the transformation of our legacy network. We then chose Redway Networks to design and install Meraki as we had used Redway before, and they were highly recommended and trusted."

As part of the design process, Redway's engineer conducted an onsite WiFi survey to ensure access point (AP) numbers and locations were as accurate as possible. Post installation, another survey was conducted to make sure optimum coverage was met. Following a network audit, Redway Networks' engineer used the schools existing fibre infrastructure to replace its end-of-life APs with 30 x MR36 indoor and MR76 outdoor WiFi 6 capable APs. The old Netgear and MS22P network switches were replaced with 2 x MS425 next-generation aggregation switches and 14 x MS225 edge switches with a collapsed core design to support the school's mission critical environment. The network is maintained by a Cisco Meraki 10-year enterprise licence and support contract and Redway Networks' comprehensive support services.



Pupils scanning QR codes in outdoor learning lessons

Highly reliable school WiFi across campus

Manor Lodge now has high-performing Meraki MR access points, optimised for heavy classroom use and next-generation Meraki MS switches, which have made network troubleshooting a breeze. Since modernising its network with a Meraki designed solution from Redway Networks, Manor Lodge has seen a variety of important benefits. The school is enjoying highly reliable, fast wireless connectivity and complete WiFi capabilities across the school and Matt's team has complete visibility and control over the network, which has improved efficiency.

"Meraki has opened up a world of opportunities for us in learning styles."

Matt Clackett, IT and Digital Services Manager,
Manor Lodge School

Meraki delivers a foundation for future learning

Matt says: "I love the simplicity of Meraki and the dashboard has great functionality. We can troubleshoot with one click then move on, which is extremely powerful. Being able to see all our devices in the dashboard so quickly has been impactful as we can identify and fix any issues often before it impacts the end users."

Manor Lodge School now has complete wireless coverage across the school with separate SSIDs and policies for pupils, staff, and guests. Matt says: "Meraki has improved security and safeguarding as we can easily set up guest networks with an individual SSID login and splash page where visitors sign up to our T&Cs and are kept within a separate network, away from internal school traffic."

Matt says: "Our Meraki solution has opened a world of opportunities for us in learning styles and enabled our pupils to work, learn and collaborate on campus. The pupil experience has improved as Meraki has made everything more reliable and enabled us to expand our classroom ICT provision. We now have more bandwidth and the foundations for future learning are in place. Reliable and fast wireless all around the building allows us to use internet connected, interactive white boards in the classrooms, all running at high speed and that's a huge benefit. The robust wireless connectivity outside means we can now make use of our twenty-six-acre grounds for outdoor learning. Pupils now use iPads in our forest and woodland areas where QR codes can be found on the trees giving children the statistics they need and they love having that information on the fly."