

# BEDFORD High School

Based in Leigh in Lancashire, Bedford High School is a community secondary school with over 1000 pupils. Bedford has a relentless desire to provide the very best for each of the 11 to 16 years olds in their care. They encourage and support each student to realise their full potential, lead a fulfilling life and respect themselves and others. This is underpinned by the school's values To Care, To Learn, To Achieve.



## The Challenge

With the release of seemingly endless new government recommendations for cyber security, correspondence was being sent to different departments within the school, making everything more confusing and difficult to correlate.

Bedford High School called Virtue Technologies in to perform a thorough cyber security review.

Virtue Technologies Relationship Manager, Lee Burnett, together with Operations Director, Will Stead worked with the school's Network Manager Richard Tonge to pull together all of the received guidance documents and assess the needs of the school, discussing over 158 measures to consider.

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I found the cyber review to be incredibly helpful and informative. While the majority of processes we used were already defined, the cybersecurity review helped with highlighting the importance of things being documented, which is an easy thing to bypass in IT!

Virtue helped us identify where we needed to improve, and helped give us lots of quick fixes where we only needed to make minor adjustments.

It also helped us to make staff more aware of their responsibilities with cybersecurity, and it also enabled us to be more creative with how we put things forward to students. I'd highly recommend the review to anyone, and we're already planning for the review to be done next year!”

- Richard Tonge, Technology Development Manager  
Bedford High School

## Cyber Security Review Colour Code



Industry best practice or statutory guidance is in place to minimise the risk of the IT estate to become compromised



Industry best practice or statutory guidance partially in place. IT estate is at risk and requires attention.



Industry best practice or statutory guidance is not in place. High risk of the IT estate being compromised.



## The Solution

Virtue Technologies Will Stead, looked at all of the requirements from RPA, DfE, Cyber Essentials, NCSC along with industry best practice and made recommendations across multiple areas such as Strategy and Planning, Policy and process and endpoint protection.

We supplied the school with a detailed analysis pinpointing 123 requirements. We broke this down into an easily accessible “traffic light” colour coded summary, allowing them to see at a glance which areas needed improvement and how high a risk it was to the school's security.

After advising what changes the school could make with little to no cost, we gave them some time to work on these areas, always at the end of the phone should they need any more advice or information.

This approach allowed Bedford High School to make massive breakthroughs and progress.

## The Benefits

After discussions with Bedford High School we were able to offer an analysis of the cyber security requirements of the school and advise on “quick fixes” to some of the more common areas of improvement.

We advised on areas of vulnerability that needed rapid response and our colour coded analysis document made it easy for the school to see where those areas of concern were, so they could act swiftly to rectify them. We were always available for further help to solve any issues.



Bedford High School are a long standing customer of Virtue Technologies and as such we are always happy to be on hand to offer the best advice and support that we can.

Cyber attacks have been an increasing concern for all Schools and Cyber Security is something that we really want to be able to discuss with all our Schools and offer the best solutions and protection that we can. We consider it a duty of care which is part of our ethos of forming and maintaining long term IT partnerships with our Schools.”

- Lee Burnett, Secondary Education  
Relationship Manager

Bedford High School benefited from Virtue's:

- Industry knowledge allowing us to quickly summarise the needs of the school
- Budget maximisation. Virtue don't expect you to spend money on areas that can be improved with “tweaking” existing processes
- Ability to quickly respond to the specific education sector changes and the latest government recommendations
- Rapid response to emergency situations, delivering fit-for-purpose solutions
- Provision of end-to-end delivery with no sub-contractors

Bedford was able to close off over half of the recommendations with minimal to no extra expenditure within 2 months of our cyber security review and we will continue to work with them to completion.