Kirkham Grammar

Kirkham Grammar School was founded back in 1549. It's been on its current site since 1911 and a number of its buildings are Grade II listed.

As teaching and learning has evolved to include technology, the team at Kirkham have always needed to keep this in mind when making improvements to IT. Their aim has been to make any required IT site upgrades, like wiring or trunking, blend in or better still, be completely hidden.

Background

Kirkham Grammar School is a coeducational independent school in Lancashire. It has Infants, Juniors, Secondary and Sixth Form facilities as well as options for boarding students.

Originally founded in 1549, Kirkham's had various extensions and rebuilds over the last 20 years, to enable technology upgrades. The addition of wireless internet has now ensured that staff and pupils have access to Wi-Fi everywhere.

> "We had heard wireless horror stories from other schools, so we knew we needed to get it right first time. Virtue has been fantastic and really looked after us – with one single point of contact throughout the project, often providing a same day service when needed.
>
> Fortinet has also provided us with an excellent product that's ideal, particularly for use across a school with old buildings. We experience no dead space at all. We're delighted with our choice – it all just works."
>
> **Janet Cannell,**
> Network Manager, Kirkham Grammar School

6+ years working together

900 Students & Staff Supported

After learning Kirkham wanted to have a solution that needed to be discreet, could handle 500+ devices being connected in close proximity without losing speed, we set to work.

Seamless internet connectivity was a 'must-have' for staff and students. We needed to ensure we could deliver a solution within budget that addressed Kirkham's concerns and was delivered with our right-first-time approach.

The Solution

We mapped out the school buildings during an on-site survey, calculated the number of required access points based on planned usage and where they should go using specialist software. We spent almost as much time planning the project as we did implementing it. It was important to get it right first time through up-front accuracy. Now that the project's complete, they benefit from:

- **Faster user access**
- **A connected campus**
- **Maximised budgets**
- **Reliable Wi-Fi with dedicated channels**

The Benefits

01 Because Virtue have an ability to develop fit-for purpose solutions designed for our customers and a proven track record in deploying industry-leading solutions, within budget, Janet knew she could trust us. Having worked with us before on other projects at Kirkham, she had experience of our installation and support expertise.

02 Our IT managers worked with Kirkham on the delivery planning, procurement and installation. Our extensive experience connecting multiple site capabilities helped us to visualise and deploy the solution we designed for Kirkham Grammar. The solution supports the wireless infrastructure they wanted and desperately needed.

03 Our efficient processes and effective management led to cost effective IT delivery, on time and on budget. We delivered a solution with seamless log-on, which included speedy data access. We built-in platform agility to give Kirkham's teachers the flexibility to support and enhance learning.

04 Our experience developing network speed improvements helped us create a wireless solution that ensured high speeds to support Kirkham's wider IT plans. We also helped them ensure their IT was secure and supported their safeguarding helping them improve security across their network to their end-user devices and everywhere in between.

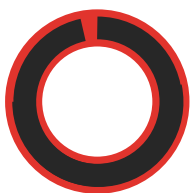## Top Marks

Janet from Kirkham said:

"The team from Virtue were there working away in every area of the school from 6am to 3pm every day – from roof spaces to underneath floorboards. They installed 105 points and there were no cables visible at all."
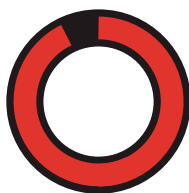
Conclusion

Philip from Virtue concludes:

"We spent a long time planning the wireless solution so that it was right for the school's aesthetics and because it needed to be right. The project went 100% to plan and the school is highly satisfied with the outcome."

98% Project Satisfaction

Averaged total scored on customer's Project based Customer Satisfaction surveys

97% Overall Satisfaction

Averaged total scored on all of the customer's Customer Satisfaction surveys

97% Service Desk Satisfaction

Averaged total scored on customer's Service Desk based Customer Satisfaction surveys