

Case Study

Future-proofing school infrastructure

To resolve Wi-Fi network, storage capacity and server performance constraints, the IT leadership team at Saint Bede's needed to find the most appropriate, cost efficient way to improve the provision of computing services for all staff and students. The school initiative to enable the safe use of mobile devices for everyone everywhere across the campus confirmed the requirement for a speedy, centrally-managed and secure wireless network solution.

Actions

- 23Technology installed **high-speed, fibre-optic LAN cabling**, linking the main campus buildings.
- Building upon existing investments in networking infrastructure, the HP LAN backbone chassis and distribution **switches were upgraded**.
- 23Technology deployed Aerohive cloud-managed, high capacity, high-performance, **Wi-Fi secure access points** across the whole campus.
- Resilient Dell **servers and shared storage array**, running Microsoft Hyper-V, were deployed together with the required Microsoft licences via an Open Value Subscription for Education Solutions (OVS-ES) agreement.

Results

- Microsoft Hyper-V ensures the **stability** of St Bede's network, plus the IT team now use a familiar interface to allow them to **easily administer the network centrally**.
- Teaching material and pupil information can now be accessed at high-speed from all campus buildings and classrooms thanks to a **20x increase in bandwidth** and **improved Wi-Fi coverage**.
- Staff and students are able to log in quickly to **fast desktop sessions** delivered to either PCs, laptops or mobile devices.

What's next?

St Bede's are currently trialling 1-to-1 student device deployment using cost-efficient Chromebooks and tablets. Infrastructure is in place to allow secure, remote access for both staff and students, giving them easy access to their desktop from home or any other location. Furthermore, student-owned mobile, laptop and tablet devices (BYOD) can be securely connected and managed.



"23Technology's open approach allowed us to gain useful knowledge in managing the environment by working alongside the consultant on tasks, rather than just being presented with the solution once completed."

Andy Hawkins,
IT Co-ordinator, St Bede's School



"We know reliable IT infrastructure is a vital tool to ensuring positive pupil outcomes. We are delighted to have helped St Bede's build on their success and ensure their IT infrastructure will cope with future demand."

Paul Foster
Director, 23Technology

St Bede's School opened in September 1976 as the world's first joint Church of England and Roman Catholic School. It is the only state-funded school where Anglicans, Roman Catholics and the Free Churches are bound together in a formal ecumenical partnership. The School educates around 1,700 boys and girls of all abilities, age 11-18, from Reigate, Redhill, Caterham, Horley and the surrounding areas. St Bede's prides itself in its academic achievements; in 2015, 90% of pupils achieve five or more GCSE A* to C grades and there was an overall pass rate of 99.2% at A-level.

For St Bede's, 23Technology delivered:

- Discovery
- Design, including
 - Hyper-V Virtualisation
 - Active Directory (23T SchoolLAN)
- Installation
- Configuration
- Transition from legacy to new systems
- Post-installation support and management services