



GGR
COMMUNICATIONS



Girls' Day
School Trust

Innovation in Education



Future-proof wireless and infrastructure for the UK's leading network of independent girls' schools.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Customer name: Girls' Day School Trust

Location: UK wide

Industry: Education

Organisation size: 42 sites, requiring 2,100 Access Points, 428 switches

Challenge:

Ensuring high quality coverage across high density areas. Multiple sites throughout the UK, project to be completed within the summer holiday period.

Solution:

Cisco Wireless, LAN switching and wireless LAN hardware.

Results:

Streamlined wired and wireless network infrastructure, improved performance and access. Single point of management for ease and control.

THE CHALLENGE

The existing wired and wireless network infrastructure was starting to become the limiting factor in the delivery of new services at the GDST sites. The LAN infrastructure had reached the end of support and was reaching the end of its useful life. In addition its performance was limited in many parts of the network. GDST therefore wanted to modernise their IT infrastructure foundations across the entire estate.

Due to the nature of the education industry, it was essential that the project could be started and completed within the summer holidays. This meant an extremely tight schedule with only seven weeks in which to undertake the extensive engineering work needed at the 42 sites across the UK, requiring meticulous planning and organisation by GGR.

“Right from initial discussions about the project, GGR’s knowledge and consultative approach stood out. They recognised our desire to plan for growth over the next 3-4 years, and that the solutions provided needed to be able to handle this to maximise our investment. GGR worked tirelessly to complete the project within the tight schedule to ensure that all 42 sites were operating seamlessly.”

Curtis Fray,
Technical Operations Manager, GDST

BENEFITS

- Increased visibility, scalability and reliability.
- Flexibility for future growth across multiple sites.
- Improved management and monitoring functionality.
- Reduced costs due to ease of management.
- Complete security and control over Access Points.
- Fast, secure roaming.
- Provided the capacity for every pupil to have a secure, connected device.

“This standout deal with the GDST was a £3.7m Cisco unified access project that included a roll out of over 400 switches, 2000 access points and 1700 handsets to 42 sites across the UK. With deployment restricted to the school summer holidays, GGR utilised complex bundles, negotiated an extended credit facility, temporarily consigned stock, and managed the logistics of a relentless installation schedule.”

Clive Hailstone,
Sales Director, Comstor UK
(a major Cisco distributor)

THE SOLUTION

Cisco’s leading enterprise wireless Access Points for indoor high bandwidth and high density environments were installed by GGR as part of the wireless solution, ensuring an advanced, future-proof design. Cisco Prime Infrastructure management software enabled a single point of management for all the devices, dramatically reducing management overheads, for configuration changes, upgrades and updates.

GGR also overhauled all the switches at every site, ensuring that the replacements would allow for the planned growth and also provide longevity for the Trust.

Providing first-class support to our customers is imperative to GGR and our Cisco accredited team of engineers spent a lot of time with key personnel at GDST to ensure that the design, schedule and management of the project achieved their goals.

THE RESULT

After GGR installed their recommended solution, performance and reliability drastically improved across all 42 sites. These installations gave Curtis Fray, ICT Technical Operations Manager, and his team at the GDST the confidence that their investment would capably handle their future growth plans without loss of connection, and would position them as leaders in the UK education sector when it comes to embracing technology. The infrastructure management software provided complete control and monitoring of all devices, giving the GDST complete peace of mind.