St Bede Primary Academy advises other schools on how to implement Sophos Mobile

St Bede Primary Academy is a Church of England school rated Outstanding by Ofsted. It is constantly over-subscribed and a well-established feature of community life in Morris Green in Bolton. It provides children with a caring, stimulating environment and prepares them for their future role as independent, responsible adults.

CUSTOMER-AT-A-GLANCE

St Bede Primary Academy

Industry
Education

Number of Users
600 students and staff

Sophos Solutions
Sophos Central Intercept X
Sophos Central Server
Sophos XG Firewalls
Sophos Mobile
Sophos UTM with RED boxes

Sophos Customer
Since 2015

'Sophos deploys apps and manages restrictions. It just keeps us safe.'

Karl Denton, IT Manager, St Bede Primary Academy

'We've come a long way and thanks to Sophos and Virtue Technologies we now have everything we need.'

Karl Denton, Head of IT, St Bedes Primary Academy

When Microsoft Forefront was discontinued in 2015, the IT team at St Bede Primary Academy began their search for a new security solution. They decided to implement Sophos across schools and nurseries in their Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) and now they even advise other schools on the uptake on Sophos Mobile.

Intro

When Karl Denton, IT manager at St Bede Primary Academy, began working at the school in 2015 there was very little in the way of IT security. During his journey to protect the school against cybercrime, he became a true Sophos advocate. Read on to find out about the challenges the school faced, how Sophos has helped, and why Karl is now a complete Sophos convert.

Business challenges

Back in 2015, St Bede Primary Academy – part of St Bede C of E Primary MAT – had little in the way of IT security: no filtering, no firewalls, and no antivirus. This was in part due to the discontinuation of Microsoft Forefront at that time. Karl was employed at the school to shore up the security – which he did one step at a time, with research and rationale.

The technical solution

Karl approached Sophos partner Virtue Technologies for support. Soon after, the school and the team at Virtue both began to look into the most suitable IT security options for the schools and nurseries in the MAT. Karl tested a range of products from various vendors yet settled on Sophos due to price and expertise, as well as support from Virtue.

The school now has a sturdy selection of IT security products in place from Sophos, keeping staff, devices, and pupils safe. This includes:

Sophos Central Intercept X
Intercept X delivers protection against unknown malware, exploits, and ransomware. It is integrated into Sophos Central, the intuitive cloud-based console for managing all Sophos products.

Sophos Central Server
Protects virtual and physical servers without sacrificing performance, including one-click Server Lockdown.

Sophos XG Firewalls
Sophos XG Firewalls provide comprehensive next-generation firewall protection that exposes hidden risks, blocks unknown threats, and automatically responds to incidents.

Sophos Mobile
A unified endpoint management and mobile threat defense solution that helps the school to spend less time and effort managing and securing its 90 iPads.

Sophos UTM with RED boxes
Sophos UTM used with Sophos RED allowed the school to build a secure distributed network with the other organisations in the MAT.

Karl is also particularly impressed with Sophos Mobile and has been working with the Sophos Education Team to assist with adoptions of the product in the education sector.

Virtue Technologies carried out the entire install and any training the school needed. Karl also attended a virtual Sophos training course.

Business benefits

With support from Virtue Technologies and with all the products the school needs now in place, Karl believes he made the right decisions throughout the entire process. "The security stack we now have is fantastic," he says. "It all does what it says on the tin."

His list of benefits of working with Sophos and Virtue Technologies:

› Hands-off continual upgrades from Sophos with no input required from the IT team

› Centrally-managed security to view endpoints and mobile devices all in one place

› No negative impact on users across the MAT – a small footprint

› Effective blocking of viruses and websites, keeping the school safe at all times with no issues encountered

› A cost that is well within budget and acceptable for schools

› Steadfast support and advice from Virtue Technologies

Karl is also happy to speak to other schools about the IT security solutions he has in place: "Other schools ask me how we're finding our set-up here and I say it works really well. I am always happy to speak to others who are trialling Sophos or those with any questions."

'We have a great relationship with St Bede that's been built over many years. We're proud of the fact that our customers trust us; our advice, support and delivery.'

Karl Denton, IT Manager,
St Bede Primary Academy

'There are cheaper solutions available but Sophos does much much more.'

Karl Denton, IT Manager,
St Bede Primary Academy

To find out more about Sophos solutions, call (0)8447 671131 or email sales@sophos.com

SOPHOS