



### Customer-at-a-Glance

Swindon-based The White Horse Federation is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) made up of 20 primary schools, secondary schools, and special schools. The trust was established in September 2012 and believes in academic excellence, shared moral purpose and values, alongside fun and happiness at school.

#### Industry

Education

#### Number of Staff

1,500 staff and 8,000 pupils

#### Website

<http://thewhitehorsefederation.org.uk>

#### Sophos Solutions

Sophos Central  
Sophos UTM  
Intercept X

#### Sophos Customer

April 2017

## Sophos and Wave 9 Make Managing 20 Schools Easier and More Secure



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MARK WELLER  
IT Director, The White Horse Federation



## Business Challenge

In 2012, The White Horse Federation was formed and schools in the area began to join The White Horse Federation Multi Academy Trust. A number of these schools were using different broadband and IT security solutions, so one of the Trust's biggest challenges was to rationalise and consolidate the products in use. The goal of this process was to make managing IT across all 20 schools far easier, less time consuming, and more cost effective.

With so many high-profile attacks appearing in national news stories, it was also critical to try and minimise the effects of any cyber attack on teaching and learning. Unifying communication across the schools in the group was an additional challenge to overcome.

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**MARK WELLER**

IT Director, The White Horse Federation



*'The schools were using a complete mix of products, so we wanted to introduce a standard solution across all sites. It was a huge task but choosing the right product and partner ensured the process ran smoothly'*

**MARK WELLER**

IT Director, The White Horse Federation

## Technology Solution

The White Horse Federation IT Support team decided to embark on a tender process in order to purchase the most suitable and value-for-money solutions. They asked a number of different IT service providers to bid, and Stafford-based Sophos partner and education specialists Wave 9 were successful.

Wave 9 recommended Sophos for IT security and their own leased lines to consolidate the broadband provision across the schools. The White Horse Federation now has in place:

- Sophos UTM (in 15 schools)
- Intercept X (150 licences)
- Sophos Central (in primary schools)
- Sophos Enterprise Console (in secondary schools)
- Broadband provided by Wave 9

The implementation was completed in April 2017 and was simply rolled out from IT Director Mark Weller's office.

"It was a smooth process," says Weller. "Wave 9 were brilliant during that time and together there were no issues we couldn't overcome."



## Business benefits

The schools are now better prepared to prevent cyber attacks through Intercept X, and Sophos UTMs have made communication across schools far easier through site-to-site VPN.

“Although you can never 100% stop cyber threats, we feel that implementing a standardised solution across the MAT has helped to minimise the risk,” says Weller. Further benefits include:

- Excellent price points
- Simple to use solutions
- Time savings
- Increased bandwidth and speed across all sites
- Root cause analysis from Intercept X

“Day-to-day the IT team is now more efficient because the solutions are all consolidated and in-house, allowing us to complete tasks much quicker than we ever did before,” Weller said. “This means we can deliver an improved service to our end users and we’ve had great feedback on this.”

Weller believes that the schools in the trust are now in a far better position than before, and even teachers working from home – or roaming – are well protected thanks to Sophos.

“Sophos products are just so easy to use and navigate,” he says. “In particular, the root cause analysis in Intercept X is excellent and we would like to roll this out even further across our schools.”

Weller is also delighted with the service he has received from Wave 9, saying: “If you need a reliable, effective, and honest provider we would recommend Wave 9. They have been excellent, from planning to implementation, and if we have any problems they are usually fixed in under ten minutes.”



*'Keeping The White Horse Federation protected against cyber threats has been a top priority for us. As a Multi Academy Trust with the objective to centralise and consolidate broadband and security services, we had no doubt that Sophos' suite of products would fit the bill perfectly. With dual broadband connections and Sophos UTM at each site, combined with Sophos' portfolio of endpoint protection products, the Federation has an extremely robust broadband service with the highest level of security and compliant web-filtering'*

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Director, Wave 9

**To find out more about  
Sophos solutions,**

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