Customer-at-a-Glance

The Academy, Selsey is an 11–16 mixed academy on the Manhood Peninsula in West Sussex. With strong community links and continued support from local businesses, the school remains a focal point for the community. First established in the 1960s, it re-opened in September 2011 as an academy, part of The Kemnal Academies Trust.

Industry
Education

Number of Staff
380 students and 200 endpoints

Sophos Solutions
Intercept X

Sophos Central

Sophos Phish Threat

Sophos Customer
Since 2016

Sophos protects The Academy, Selsey in temporary accommodation following a devastating fire

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Daniel Sapseid
ICT systems manager

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In August 2016, The Academy, Selsey was hit by a devastating fire that destroyed the majority of the academy's buildings and their contents. Every single item of hardware was destroyed in the fire. More than 75 firefighters tackled the blaze as huge plumes of black smoke spread across the West Sussex town.

The 453 pupils are now being taught at four locations in the Selsey area and one year on, the rebuild work is underway. Already established as a vendor to the academy before the fire, Sophos continues to protect systems, staff, and pupils from ransomware and threats across temporary sites and on new computers.

Business Challenge

Working in different locations around Selsey and in temporary classrooms is challenging for teachers and staff at the academy. Educating its pupils and keeping them safe from online threats must continue as usual, regardless of where they are or the devices they are using. When the fire destroyed all the PCs and servers the school owned, the IT team took delivery of replacement hardware from Sophos partner Haptic, and began setting it all up to work across multiple sites. Every piece of computing equipment needed reprogramming. This included reinstalling Sophos across the entire estate.

Technology Solution

The Academy, Selsey was using Sophos Endpoint Antivirus before the fire. It was installed early on in 2016 by Daniel Sapseid, ICT systems manager at the academy.

"We had tried every type of antivirus solution in the past but we settled on Sophos," says Daniel, who works on his own there. "Sophos has one of the best reputations in the industry. They offered a module that managed exchange server filtering for me, which was a big benefit. Plus, the pricing and the feature set were good, and the product is far easier to manage than previous solutions."

After the fire, the academy transitioned to Sophos Central, making it easy for Daniel to see alerts coming in from across the different temporary locations, and giving him the ability to log in and address any tasks from anywhere.

The team has also recently implemented Intercept X to protect again ransomware. Unsure as to whether the staff at the academy were aware of how a ransomware attack takes place, Daniel sent a test threat to everyone's email addresses using Sophos Phish Threat and a number of people clicked on the link. Daniel is therefore pleased to have installed Intercept X, which he says was "really easy to roll out."

Business Results

Daniel is confident that all the new devices are safe and secure across multiple sites. "Although we are all working in different locations, I am happy knowing that any laptops or memory sticks are scanned and safe," he says. Further benefits of the Sophos solution include:

‣ **Easy implementation of Sophos Central**
Daniel needed to get all the new hardware quickly up and running with security software installed. "Sophos Central did it all for me," he says. "The install saved hours upon hours of time – where it could have potentially take me days."

‣ **Knowledge, trust, and support**
"Sophos is always hot on the latest viruses and threats and regularly release patches," says Daniel. "Sophos products just work and I trust them." Daniel has never needed to contact Sophos for support but knows it is always available for him from Sophos and Haptic if he ever needs it.

‣ **Almost invisible footprint**
Daniel believes Sophos solutions have a far less noticeable footprint than the previous solutions they have used at the academy, keeping staff and students working without delays.

Daniel concludes: "I would wholeheartedly recommend Sophos to other schools if you are looking for a provider you can trust with a product that works well and saves time. Haptic have also been fantastic – very helpful, with good pricing and no cold calling or upselling. They've been a big help to us during such a challenging time."

'We are pleased to have been able to support The Academy, Selsey following the fire. We've worked closely with them to replace their ICT suites as far as possible in the temporary accommodation. We recommended Sophos to the academy and we are pleased that this has proved successful to them. We look forward to working with both Sophos and the academy for many years to come.'

Daniel Sapseid
ICT systems manager

To find out more about Sophos solutions,

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