



Customer-at-a-Glance

Established in 1903, Roundhay School is an Ofsted 'Outstanding' mixed all-through school and sixth form located in Roundhay, Leeds, West Yorkshire. There are 2,000 pupils, with around 500 pupils in the sixth form. The school has 1,000 endpoints, and 180 staff.

Industry

Education

Number of Staff

2,000

Sophos Solutions

Sophos Central

Sophos Next Gen XG Firewall

Sophos Customer

Since 2017

Synchronised and Intuitive Security Protects Students, Staff, and Network at Roundhay School



'Sophos is a forward-thinking company with solutions that are all integrated. They are at the forefront of IT security for schools and they really understand the education market.'

Andy West

Network Manager, Roundhay School



'The pricing that Sophos offered us was specific education pricing and very competitive compared to other vendors.'

Andy West

Network Manager, Roundhay School

Having faced and manually overcome a ransomware attack at the school, the IT team at Roundhay School began searching for more effective cybersecurity to keep the institution, network, pupils and staff safe from online attacks. Keen to remove the ineffective solution they had been using for a number of years, they approached Sophos, having seen them in action presenting at a GDPR conference. What followed was a completely new synchronised approach to security that has been implemented and embraced at the school.

Business Challenge

When Roundhay School was hit by a ransomware attack in early 2017, it was clear that its IT security needed an overhaul to stay on top of growing threats. Although the school managed to unlock and restore all the files on the network without paying the fine, it was a highly labour-intensive task that they didn't want to face again. Network Manager Andy West began searching around for alternative antivirus solutions and soon began talks with Sophos about how they could improve protection at the school.

Technology Solution

Initially the school opted for Sophos Central, replacing the previous antivirus solution and helping the IT team to feel more secure and protected against threats such as ransomware. Shortly afterwards, the licence for the school's existing firewall solution was due to expire. They were so impressed with Sophos Central that the school once again turned to Sophos, who suggested the XG Firewall, a next-generation endpoint protection and enterprise firewall. This is integrated with the Sophos Security Heartbeat, which enables sharing intelligence in real time between the school's endpoints and firewalls.

Sophos visited the school for one day to implement the solution. The Sophos team transferred any policies that were still required and created new ones for the school too, and this was all included in the price.

Business Results

Andy is delighted with the decision he and the team made resulting in synchronised security for the school. They are now seeing benefits, including:

- ▶ **One place to see alerts and notifications**

The school no longer needs to search around within different platforms and products to find if there are any security issues. All the alerts and notifications are there ready and available for them in Sophos Central – as well as being sent out to designated team members – so it saves them time seeking out the information they need when they need it. Nothing gets missed.

- ▶ **Outstanding response times from Sophos**

If Andy and the team ever need support or advice from Sophos they, usually receive a response – within a day, and most of the time within one hour. They also use the Sophos Knowledge Base to quickly search for answers online.

- ▶ **Dedicated education team**

Andy believes that the Sophos education team really understand the challenges faced within the sector. "Sophos products are so intuitive that they are ideal for education environments, where staff are often stretched. Having all the products in one single package saves hours of time."

"I would recommend Sophos to other education establishments," says Andy. "The whole interface is very intuitive. It is all there in plain English yet it is still high-end IT kit. It is designed for people of all levels of expertise and is ideal for schools."

Sophos partner Newfox has helped the school with sourcing the Sophos products, getting pricing, and being on hand when the install took place.

"They have been excellent," says Andy. "They set up meetings and demos and achieved excellent pricing for us." Craig Owens is a Director at Newfox.

"Working on this project to overhaul the IT security at Roundhay School has been a real pleasure. The school has seen a vast improvement to their security provision and is now more confident in their protection alongside having greater peace of mind. We are more than pleased with how this project has gone and look forward to further Sophos installs at the school, a number of which are already in discussion."



'The install went well, and we now get granular, in-depth web filtering across age groups. It's easy, fast and very logical to create new firewall rules and it will save us time in the future.'

Andy West

Network Manager, Roundhay School



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