

CASE STUDY

ADDINGTON SCHOOL

Addington School needed a replacement Wi-Fi solution with reliable coverage to accommodate their extended site.

Addington School is a special school in Woodley, Reading, for up to 240 children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Addington School had been using an ageing Wi-Fi solution which was not cost effective to upgrade and expand. It also lacked the coverage required to incorporate the **new extension** that was being built and the school wanted to offer Wi-Fi in the corridors and outdoor areas too.

In summary, the school's requirements were:

- Reliable signal coverage across two floors, the new building and in between the two school buildings
- Coverage for certain outdoor locations, such as the playground
- Enable users to move from one block to another without needing roaming devices to be restarted
- Easy-to-use password guest access for infrequent users
- Isolation of school devices from **any** guest devices
- Service level agreement appropriate for the school's needs
- Flexibility to grow to accommodate future needs

Following a site survey, **swcomms** recommended a RUCKUS (now a part of CommScope) solution comprising of 26 industry-leading 802.11ac internal access points and two external ones to be operated on the existing LAN switches and cabling wherever possible to **minimise cost**.



Like all hardware, access points have a shelf life and newer products are more efficient due to improvements made in technology.

The RUCKUS access points have **extended the school's Wi-Fi coverage using fewer access points**. Adaptive antenna and channel technology mitigates data packet loss to ensure the highest performance possible and finds the least congested channels, so the school always gets the highest throughput the band can support.

With this latest technology at its core, this solution will effectively serve the school's needs for between five and seven years, while having the flexibility to grow as required.

The solution is managed via by a **cloud controller** located in **swcomms'** data centre in Exeter. This gives the IT team the ability to manage and monitor the school's wireless network from any device. The IT team has visibility of who is using their network, even if when they are not using school devices.

swcomms supports the school with a service level agreement for 8am to 6pm on weekdays for incident reporting and plus remote support with the school's IT team looking after day to day configuration.

The solution was installed, along with a new Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise OXO Connect telephone system, to coincide with the completion of the new sixth form building (see overleaf). The Wi-Fi solution links to the telephone system's unified communications app, Rainbow, as staff use their mobiles to make and receive calls while they roam the site.

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A dedicated project manager led the entire deployment process, including training, to give the school a **single point of contact** throughout. The school's aftercare is via a dedicated account manager who will keep in regular contact with the IT team backed up by **swcomms'** support desk and customer service team.

Addington School now has a modern, **future-proofed Wi-Fi solution** and telephone system and that can grow with the school and has the flexibility to accommodate staff and pupils' communication and learning needs wherever they are working.

"swcomms found a solution that allowed us to expand our school and broaden our Wi-Fi coverage for a fraction of the cost competitors were asking, because they listened to what we required."

Tom Gray, IT manager

