



E-ACT Braintcroft Academy Case Study

Sector:
Education

Solution:

Cisco Meraki with Redway Networks' configuration and installation services.

Highlights:

- Braintcroft Academy is one of the largest primary schools within the E-ACT Multi-Academy Trust.
- Meraki was chosen by the trust as part of a broader IT standardisation strategy.
- The school chose Redway Networks to deliver a fast, high quality installation service.
- Redway maintained network continuity during the migration with no disruption to the school.
- Redway Networks delivered an exceptional service during the installation and was rated five out of five for quality and communication.
- With Redway Networks' expertise, Meraki has enhanced user experiences with improved Wi-Fi coverage and device capacity.
- With Meraki's cloud-networking, the school has a centralised network which enables its IT technicians to respond quickly to network queries from any site.

E-ACT Braintcroft Academy benefits from a seamless upgrade to a superior Meraki network

E-ACT Braintcroft Academy has replaced its outdated network with a cloud-managed, unified Cisco Meraki solution from Redway Networks. The school wanted to future-proof the network to support digital learning with reliable, high-density Wi-Fi capacity in the classrooms. It also wanted to centralise network management through cloud-networking to enable the IT team to respond more quickly and efficiently to any network issues remotely.

Braintcroft Academy in London is one of the largest primary schools within the E-ACT Multi-Academy Trust a large trust that operates 38 academies across England. The school's need for a network upgrade became urgent as the end of the financial year approached. With budgets needing to be allocated, the trust made the decision to procure Cisco Meraki hardware for the school quickly, securing the necessary equipment before installation could be arranged. This proactive approach ensured that funding was not lost and that improvements could move forward without delay.

Redway Networks' expertise seen

Djaoueb Gouri, Director of IT Infrastructure & Projects for E-ACT says: "With the Meraki hardware in place, we sought a network partner who could deliver a high-quality installation within our tight timeframes, and I was recommended to Redway Networks. When I spoke to Redway's team I really liked their approach, so we took it from there."

Working closely with the school, Redway Networks carried out a full upgrade of the school's wireless network and switching infrastructure. The project was carefully planned and executed during school holidays to minimise disruption and during the deployment even the school's critical systems and door access remained fully operational throughout.

Djaoueb says: "The Wi-Fi installation by Redway Networks was seamless and I had great feedback from staff that there was no disruption to services. Redway's engineers kept the previous network connected right up to the last minute which is important for safeguarding reasons as we didn't lose connection to important systems such as our CCTV. Beyond the installation, the communication from Redway Networks was excellent and the flexibility and attention to detail from its engineers really stood out."



"I would give Redway Networks' technical expertise and service five out of five stars."

Djaoueb Gouri, Director of IT Infrastructure & Projects, E-ACT

Centrally managed network

Once the Meraki network was installed the technical improvements were immediate. The school is now benefitting from a more reliable, scalable and centrally managed network that is suited to modern classroom demands. Previously, the school had struggled with inconsistent coverage and device limitations, particularly in the classrooms where multiple laptops were in use. Now, performance has been transformed.

Djaoueb says: "With our old Wi-Fi solution, we only had enough capacity to connect ten classroom laptops at the same time or there would be duplicate IPs, but with Meraki the coverage is excellent and the Wi-Fi is super-fast so we can use all our laptops simultaneously for shared, digital activity."

Through the Meraki dashboard, the school can now manage network issues remotely which has reduced reliance on third-party providers and improved response times. Importantly, it has also ensured that the trust's investment decision with Cisco Meraki is aligned with long-term value.

Djaoueb says: "Having a centralised view of another school in the cloud instead of locally means our IT team can manage monitor and troubleshoot across multiple school sites from a single cloud dashboard, rather than being tied to on-premise systems at each school. For example, if one of our technicians is not at Braintcroft, a technician from another school site can assist via the Meraki dashboard."

Djaoueb says: "Meraki is the best solution for us in terms of workability and budget as in the education sector we need to balance performance with financial responsibility. The service we received from Redway Networks' engineers was excellent. We asked for a few things to be tweaked, and they were more than happy to accommodate us and did it free of charge. I've been working in education for over 23 years, and I would give the expertise and service of Redway Networks five out of five stars."

A key part of the improvement was the careful design of the wireless network. Redway Networks engineers segmented the Wi-Fi into multiple SSIDs for staff, students, 1:1 devices and BYOD users, ensuring that each group received the appropriate level of access, security and performance.

E-ACT Braintcroft Academy is now benefitting from a robust, high-performing Meraki network that supports both teaching and learning without interruption. Teaching staff can move freely across the site, devices connect reliably and the IT burden has been reduced as the team now has full network visibility and control via the cloud.

Djaoueb concludes: "The impact of Meraki from Redway Networks has been a game changer for our school. We now have a future-ready network designed to scale, adapt and support education for years to come."

