



Water Hall Primary School

Case Study

Sector:
Education

Solution:

Cambium WiFi 7 with Redway Networks' professional design and installation services

Highlights:

- Water Hall Primary School is benefitting from Cambium WiFi 7 and Aruba switches with professional services from Redway Networks
- With a legacy WiFi 5 network and no central management, the school was awarded funding from DfE for an upgrade
- The school chose Redway Networks as it has experience in delivering successful DfE Connect the Classroom projects
- The school was very impressed with the service it received from Redway Networks
- Smart cloud-management has reduced network management and troubleshooting
- The reliability and speed of Cambium WiFi 7 have enabled teachers to create more dynamic learning experiences

Water Hall Primary School is benefiting from the latest advancement in smart wireless technology

Water Hall Primary School has improved the student experience with an IT infrastructure upgrade to high-capacity WiFi 7 and next-generation switches through the Department of Education's regional improvement for standards and excellence programme. The school utilised the Connect the Classroom grant and network expertise of Redway Networks to replace its legacy network with a future-proofed solution with smart AI capabilities to manage network performance, security and connectivity.

Water Hall Primary School in Bletchley, Milton Keynes is based in an award-winning building designed in 2008 on the site of the old school. The school provides an interesting curriculum and is committed to providing its pupils with the digital skills they need for learning, life and work, so the IT infrastructure plays a key role in the school's success.


Following the upgrade, the school's network has been transformed into a smart, connected environment that's supporting digital transformation.

Future-Proofed Network

To support educational technology well into the future, Water Hall Primary School received funding through DfE's Connect the Classroom Programme for a network upgrade.

Paul Heather, IT Services Manager at Water Hall Primary School says: "We were delighted to receive the funding from DfE and I wanted to find a network company to partner with who had a proven track-record of successful CtC projects and knew all the steps. I found Redway Networks on the UK-based public sector ICT procurement framework, Everything ICT and after recommendations from several other school IT Managers I reached out to Redway Networks to assist with our project."

The first step was for Redway Networks to conduct a technical WiFi survey and comprehensive network audit to analyse network performance and produce a detailed report of the school's entire IT infrastructure. To meet the school's requirements for futureproofing, Redway recommended replacing the school's Unify WiFi 5 with the advanced performance of Cambium WiFi 7 access points and its cloud-managed cnMaestro platform for wireless management. The infrastructure was upgraded to HPE Aruba's enterprise-grade switches for reliability with the Aruba Central platform for unified switch management.



“Moving a whole school to WiFi 7 is a massive undertaking but Redway Networks made the entire process effortless.”

Paul Heather, IT Services Manager, Water Hall Primary School

Cost-effective AI driven WiFi

Paul says: "We chose Cambium as it's a powerful, yet cost effective solution that provides the improved capacity of WiFi 7 access points with AI-driven features. To get optimum wireless coverage, Redway's engineer started the new design from a blank slate, even though the design topology was in place. Redway Networks guided us through the entire process and handled everything from the forms and network assessment to the WiFi survey, design and install so we had a seamless solution for Connect the Classroom."

The school's ceilings are sloped and at various heights so many of the access points had to be wall mounted to ensure secure installation, optimal placement and reliable wireless coverage.

The Aruba switches were housed in new communications cabinets with a direct link back to the core switches. The fibre was upgraded to OM4 high-bandwidth data cabling with multi-gigabit connectivity.

Water Hall Primary School now has a robust Cambium solution that leverages WiFi 7 security and performance standards with AI-driven features that automatically optimise the wireless environment for easier control and improved performance.

Paul says: "Cambium has delivered faster and more reliable wireless connectivity across campus which has improved the pupil experience. Having WiFi 7 means we are future-proofed for initiatives such as 1:1 and immersive learning. I'm really pleased with Cambium - its delivering the affordability of Unify but with enterprise capabilities, high-performance and a lifetime warranty. The cnMaestro dashboard is easy to use, and I can see all our WiFi access points which has made wireless network monitoring and ongoing management much simpler."

Water Hall Primary School was extremely impressed with the service they received from Redway Networks and Paul would confidently recommend Redway's team to other schools.

Paul says: "Moving a whole school to WiFi 7 is a massive undertaking, especially under the specific requirements of DfE. Redway Networks' technical expertise made the entire process effortless, from the initial re-cabling to the switch and WiFi configurations. As a network manager, what I appreciated most was the outstanding communication I received throughout the project. With Redway Networks, we haven't just installed new IT equipment; we've future-proofed our school with a rock-solid network."

