



**Sector:** Education

**Services:** On-site WiFi survey  
Blue-print for a new new wireless design

**Highlights:**

- Blackburn College is one of the largest colleges in the UK with more than 750 staff and over 10,000 students.
- To deliver a seamless online experience to its students the College need a wireless network with the capacity to support 3,500 devices at peak times.
- The College identified that its aging Meru WiFi wasn't scalable enough to support its high-density needs and would need upgrading to WiFi 6 in the future.
- The College chose Redway Networks to carry out an on-site WiFi survey as it was impressed with Redway's wireless knowledge.
- Blackburn College now has a professional WiFi blueprint with a 'right first time' design approach that can be used to implement its new wireless solution in the future.

## Blackburn College

### Blackburn College selects Redway Networks to conduct a professional on-site WiFi survey.

Blackburn College has selected Redway Networks for an on-site WiFi design survey, and the College now has the blueprint for a new high-performance wireless network for its large, city-centre campus.

Redway Networks was chosen to conduct the onsite survey which took five days to complete and involved Redway's skilled engineers auditing the campus to assess its existing network infrastructure and produce a bespoke WiFi design. The survey was conducted using Ekahau's industry-leading heat mapping software which provided a report on the coverage, capacity, bandwidth, and performance needed to meet the College's requirements for a new, future WiFi 6 solution.

Blackburn College is one of the largest colleges in the UK with more than 750 staff and over 10,000 students. The College delivers high quality education and specialist, bespoke training to support its students in their employment aspirations and is taking a leading role in transforming Pennine Lancashire into a vibrant and successful economy. The College's drive to develop students to thrive in a digital society highlights the need for it to deliver a seamless online experience to its students and during peak times it can have 3,500 devices connecting to its network at the same time.



Blackburn College identified that its aging Meru WiFi wouldn't be scalable enough to support its high number and high density of users and that in the future it needed a more superior WiFi solution, so it instructed Redway Networks to carry out a professional on-site WiFi survey.

Imtiyaz Patel, IT Services Manager at Blackburn College says: "With support for our Meru network finishing next year, we needed to refresh the WiFi and I wanted a vendor who could deliver a professional on-site WiFi survey and advise us on future wireless technology. I was recommended to Redway Networks and I was impressed with their wireless expertise and they gave me a very competitive rate for a full on-site wireless survey using Ekahau software".

Redway's engineers visited Blackburn College and used Ekahau Side Kick to identify the College's existing WiFi attributes and obtain a diagram of the campus (which included ten buildings a few hundred metres apart and a satellite building three miles away) to deliver a full design for a new proposed wireless solution and what that would look like. Redway Networks produced an Ekahau heat map of the campus with colour-coded visualisations for radio frequency signal strength, channels, coverage, bandwidth, interference, data rate and location and number of access points, all modelled using lots of 'what if' flexibility.



With the survey for the new WiFi design complete, Redway Networks used the data gathered to improve the WiFi coverage of its Meru network until the College installs its new wireless network.

Imtiyaz says: "Following the findings from the survey Redway's engineer was able to optimise some of our existing access point (AP) locations and add some additional APs to give us more density in the classrooms which has been a real help."

Blackburn College now has a professional WiFi blueprint with a 'right first time' design approach that can be used to implement its new wireless solution in the future.

Imtiyaz concludes: "The service we received from Redway Networks during the on-site survey was exceptional and its engineers were very professional. We now have an excellent WiFi survey report that we can use in the future."

**"I was recommended to Redway Networks and they gave me a very competitive rate for a full on-site professional wireless survey using Ekahau . I was impressed with Redway's wireless expertise and the service we received was excellent."**

Imtiyaz Patel, IT Services Manager, Blackburn College



**Wireless Solutions. Made Simple.**

Redway Networks is a leading WiFi specialist with expertise in the planning, design and installation of enterprise-wide wireless networking solutions that deliver affordability, scalability, and a frictionless deployment to its customers. Using world-leading wireless technology, Redway Networks supports all your connectivity needs and provides a robust foundation for your digital business.

