The Forest of Dean Trust

Sector:

🏫 Education

Products:

📷 Cisco Meraki MV Smart Cameras

Highlights:

- With the Trust receiving more protection through Meraki's security solutions, it wanted a new CCTV system to protect its physical spaces as well

- Having delivered the Trust's Meraki IT infrastructure, Redway Networks was the natural partner to work with

- Meraki smart cameras have secured school perimeters and bolstered physical safety

- MV Vision dashboard has delivered a more intuitive viewing experience which has mitigated incident risks

- Productivity has been improved with Meraki's remote cloud-management

- Exploring footage is easy which has reduced the overhead on the ICT team

- MV's on-camera video storage has saved costs and minimised physical infrastructure

- Incidents have been reduced and student safeguarding improved

A New Vision for Dene Magna and Drybrook schools with Meraki CCTV from Redway Networks

Dene Magna Secondary School and Drybrook Primary School are part of the Forest of Dean Trust, based in Gloucestershire. Approx 1200 students are enrolled across both schools and the Trust employs around 100 staff including teachers and support staff. The Trust sees technology as vital in getting its pupils ready for the future and has embraced a full Cisco Meraki technology-stack from Redway Networks including WiFi, switching, firewalls and cloud security to deliver a safe digital learning environment.

Both schools are in rural locations which brings benefits but also challenges as the sites are rather exposed. Dene Magna has 7 separate buildings on a 20 acre site and Drybrook 2 buildings on 1 acre. Both schools already had CCTV in place, but it was failing and staff couldn't see the footage properly, especially after dark. To give its students and staff peace of mind and reduce incidents the Trust wanted to improve security at both sites and build on the robust Meraki infrastructure already in place with Meraki's easy to use CCTV solution.

Tom Henesey, Headteacher at Drybrook Primary School says: "We already had CCTV surveillance but it was really outdated and we were concerned that this lack of visibility would take a toll on school safety. We'd experienced a couple of incidents out of hours, and we wanted more site coverage, so it was a natural choice to upgrade all our CCTV with Meraki's smart cameras."

Emily Stigant is the ICT Manager based at Dene Manga and she is responsible for the Trust's comprehensive Meraki network. Emily contacted Redway Networks who supplied 24 x MV72 outdoor dome cameras with a 10-YR enterprise and support licence and Emily's team installed them in less than two days thanks to MV's 'plug and play' deployment.

Tom says: " We now have full coverage around our school perimeter, which has improved the physical safety of our pupils and staff. When I'm showing parents around the school, they love to hear that we have Meraki's top of the range security infrastructure in place".

Wireless & Networking. Made Simple.

The Meraki cameras were immediately visible and ready for use in the Vision dashboard once they were connected to the network. Because of the cloud-managed nature of Meraki's smart cameras clear, intuitive footage can be accessed remotely through the dashboard which has enabled not only Emily's team, but also key members of the Trust's key safeguarding team to monitor and securely view footage on the fly from all cameras.

Emily says: "I like the fact that the MV cameras combat the issue of limited network bandwidth and eliminate overuse through motion-based retention. When viewing footage Meraki automatically recognises if the viewing computer is network-based or remote and adjusts accordingly by either streaming direct to the device (if on the network), or by proxying streams through the cloud (if remote).

Meraki Vision Portal at Dene Magna School

Productivity Improved

Staff are now able to monitor school buildings and perimeters and if there is an incident MV enables staff to quickly identify the correct footage and view the incident. Emily's team can also use the dashboard to see footfall analytics so any potential school bottlenecks can be identified and resolved. If there was ever a break-in, any data can be exported quickly thanks to the search feature and with Meraki's motion detection, exploring the footage is easy which has reduced the overhead on IT.

Its quick and easy for Tom to see what's going on at his school. Tom says: "If there is an incident in school I can login to the browser and if a pupil says something has happened, from a

security point of view, I can check the footage from anywhere and confirm what happened. From a productivity point of view Meraki's CCTV has made dealing with incidents much quicker, meaning I have time to focus on teaching and learning strategies."

Luckily Drybrook hasn't had to deal with too many incidents since installing the new cameras. Tom says: " We did have an incident where a fox got into school grounds and caused some damage but with our CCTV we were able to investigate quickly and secure the site in minutes."

Incidents Reduced

Beyond reducing incidents, the cameras have given confidence to students and staff, knowing their environment is being monitored accurately, consistently, and intelligently.

Tom says: "MV has really bolstered us in the physical security game. Our staff love the fact that Meraki provides a watchful eye over our school site 24-7 . We have perimeter fencing but video security keeps everything safe. We have a large forest by our school area and having the CCTV means we can use it at the weekends which has given staff flexibility on how they work."

Emily says: " With MV the quality of the footage is very clear and my team can easily monitor both schools and only act when there's a potential threat which makes it easy to keep our sites safe. All the configuration and management is done

from the Meraki dashboard. Operational costs are also low in comparison to our old CCTV as all the footage is now stored on the cameras. MV has been a brilliant addition to our Meraki portfolio and Redway Networks has been a great partner to work with."

Tom says: " Meraki has reduced costs for us across the board, not just for CCTV and these savings have enabled us to use our IT budget in areas that aide the education of our students."

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> **Tom Henesey**, Headteacher, Drybrook Primary