



Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School

Sector: Education

Solution: ExtremeCloud IQ WiFi 6

Services: Predictive survey, WLAN installation, project management, support

Highlights:

- Sir Henry Floyd is a mixed secondary school and part of the Insignis Academy Trust who is committed to using the latest technology.
- The school has 1,300 pupils and over 3,000 devices connecting to its network so high-performance WiFi is essential.
- As device adoption and compatibility with WiFi 6 grew the school's existing WiFi couldn't support its technology and capacity needs.
- The trust selected an ExtremeCloud WiFi 6 solution from Redway Networks as it was impressed with Redway's technical knowledge and expertise within the education sector.
- Redway worked around the school's closure due to Coronavirus and completed the survey on paper using Ekahau Sidekick theoretical heat mapping.
- The school now has a hyper-reliable, cloud-managed WiFi 6 solution that will enable technology-driven teaching and learning and support the school's digital transformation strategy for years to come.

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School future-proofs its network with a new WiFi 6 solution from Redway Networks

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar school improves wireless connectivity and future-proofs the capability of its network with a hyper-reliable, easily managed wireless solution from Redway Networks. The school's new ExtremeCloud IQ WiFi 6 infrastructure will support digital teaching and learning by providing a secure, robust wireless network for over 1,300 pupils.

Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, is a mixed secondary school and part of the Insignis Academy Trust. The trust is committed to using the latest technology to enhance learning and teaching and being a Google school, all students have their own Chromebooks for learning. With teachers' laptops and other connecting devices (such as smart phones which students can have on them during the day) typically over 3,000 devices are connecting to the school's network. So, a robust, secure wireless network infrastructure is essential.

As the number of devices within the school grew and it deployed more technology and newer hardware, it became apparent that the school's existing Ruckus WiFi couldn't cope with all the devices connecting to the network, so the school needed to improve the infrastructure.

Existing WiFi is unable to support capacity

John Huskinson, Chief Operations Officer at Insignis Academy Trust says: "Our legacy Ruckus WiFi solution was not ideally located or configured, and we knew it wouldn't cope well with the school's increase in devices and digital learning. Our trust is committed to having the latest technology that is fit for purpose so it was obvious we needed a new high-performance WiFi solution that would seamlessly connect all the school's devices and could support the whole end-to-end IT experience."

Redway Networks gives the best value on ExtremeCloud IQ

As the school upgraded all its staff laptops and more devices and smart phones required compatibility with WiFi 6, the trust knew that to support the school's future network capacity it needed to go for a 'big bang' and upgrade its Ruckus system⁴ with a new robust WiFi 6 solution that would future-proof the school in terms of technology for the next ten years.

After researching WiFi providers, the trust shortlisted two suppliers for Sir Henry Floyd's WLAN project. John says: "We wanted a single system that could provide seamless network capacity and handle our traffic requirements both now and for the future. We also required a cloud-managed system for complete network visibility, which is important when students have their own device. I was impressed with Redway Networks'

reputation and experience within the education sector and I liked the fact that they were relatively local in Milton Keynes."

After evaluating ExtremeCloud and Cisco Meraki, Redway Networks came out on top for both products in terms of cost and technical knowledge. John says: "Redway Networks really understood our requirements and we felt that the ExtremeCloud IQ had the slight edge over Meraki as it was more intuitive and had better technical functionality. For example, we really liked Extreme's Atom AP30, which acts as an extension of the school's network to provide enterprise network access for staff working from home. It was also reassuring to know that Redway Networks is an Extreme gold partner and ExtremeWireless accredited specialist."

Redway Networks provides flexibility around Coronavirus

Once ExtremeCloud IQ was chosen, Redway had to configure the new wireless infrastructure, which would normally be done through an Ekahau site survey. However, as the school was closed due to Coronavirus, the survey had to be completed on paper using a theoretical mapping configuration, which was then verified using Ekahau Side Kick to determine signal strength and access point (AP) positioning.

John says: "I was very impressed with the amount of time Redway spent with us on the mapping. Such as going through the detail over and over again, answering all our questions and making sure all of our network requirements were met and all the visualisations on the map were green so we got the solution right first time."

The new ExtremeCloud IQ WiFi 6 solution included 63 APs installed on the ground and first floors of the school. John says: "We now have a high-performance, secure WiFi 6 infrastructure that will support our technology needs for the next ten years. We were also able to re-use most of the Ruckus system in our Princes Risborough school which had an even older WiFi infrastructure than Sir Henry Floyd, so in fact, both our schools have benefitted from this project."

Due to Coronavirus, not all students are currently back in school so Redway has committed to troubleshoot any network issues if they arise once the school is at full capacity.

John says: "The flexibility we've received from Redway Networks around Coronavirus has been brilliant and I know if we have any issues in the future Redway will jump on it and sort it out, even if it means installing additional access points."

A future proofed WiFi infrastructure

Sir Henry Floyd now has a hyper-reliable, cloud-managed WiFi 6 solution that will enable technology-driven teaching and learning and support the school's digital transformation strategy for years to come. John says: "In five years' time every student at the school will be tapping into videos and streaming in high definition and teachers will be using more video and AI for teaching and I'm confident that any amount of traffic we throw at our new network won't kill the WiFi. I'm very happy with our ExtremeCloud and I've been really impressed by the service and support we've received from Redway Networks. They've been great throughout the whole process and I feel that we have formed a real partnership."



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.