



SUPPORTING 1:1 AND BYOD AT ALDRIDGE SCHOOL – AN ACADEMY

THE VISION

Aldridge school is a converter Academy in the West Midlands with a very clear vision of the benefits that can be derived from using technology effectively in support of teaching and learning.

At the heart of this is the use of both school and student owned devices to provide easy access to teaching and learning resources through Froglearn, the award-winning platform from Frog Education.

School leaders identified the capacity of the schools network as a significant barrier to realising their vision. An upgrade to the Internet connection had already been purchased but the local network, wired and wireless, needed a thorough review if it was to support the school development plan into the future in a flexible and secure way.

THE PROJECT

Frog introduced the school to the team at Wave 9. As network infrastructure and Wi-Fi specialists with extensive experience of successfully delivering services to education, Wave 9 were quickly identified as a key partner to advise, design and deliver a high performance platform that would effectively support teachers and learners.

The implementation plan and timescales were designed to minimise disruption to the school day, to work around day-to-day operations and critical dates in the school calendar and to ensure a successful transition from the old network to the new.

IMPACT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

The project was completed in September 2014 and, whilst it's early days for staff and students at Aldridge, the initial feed back on how a well-designed and implemented network transforms user confidence and boosts uptake of technology in the classroom is universally positive.

"It's amazing, absolutely amazing. I connect at the start of the day and remain connected. You just click and the information is there.

It's also had a beneficial impact on our use of data during learning walks and our ability to provide feedback quickly and efficiently.

Staff confidence using ICT is much improved. They are rapidly adopting Froglearn and are increasingly using the network to stream multi media, such as high quality video; something we would of not dreamed of attempting before"

Nichola Eaton
Assistant Head Teacher
Aldridge School – An Academy

The benefits go further than lesson delivery. Staff access to management information through secure and reliable connectivity is helping the school run efficiently too, with the network now facilitating the adoption of cost effective cloud services such as Google Apps for Education for e-mail and calendar.

We are keen to follow the school's journey as they develop their 1:1 device programme and embed Froglearn in a way the helps deliver a differentiated and engaging learning experience for all.

WHAT WE DID

The scope of the infrastructure project included;

- Design and implementation of a cloud managed converged wired and wireless service
- Active Directory integration to support staff and student access and BYOD
- Delivered a core 10Gigabit switching fabric on a new resilient fibre core infrastructure
- Reviewed, upgraded and repurposed existing network switches where appropriate
- Optimised wireless design based upon predicted usage patterns
- Pre and confirmatory post installation wireless site surveys
- 7 Year support and maintenance agreement

WORKING WITH WAVE9

Within Wave 9 our goal is to enable our customers to maximise the potential of ICT in school by having a well designed, safe and secure infrastructure in place. Over time it will need to support BYOD and help you integrate cost effective cloud services and future learning technologies too.

When combined with the relentless pressure to purchase devices and applications, often without the time to fully consider implications for the network, it's no surprise that users are sometimes frustrated and demotivated when the experience in school is not as it should be.

At Wave 9 we understand that network infrastructure is a once every 5 to 10 year investment and it's going to be crucial to the effective use of ICT in your school over that time.

Equally we appreciate that budgets remain challenging so you need to make sure you get the right solution first time, and ensure best value over the lifetime of the service.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

Why not join Aldridge and partner with Wave 9 to realise your vision for ICT in your school?



"We had a clear vision. Teaching staff saw significant value in Froglearn and mobile learning and we had identified innovative schemes for purchase of devices; but we knew an intelligent and ubiquitous network that would support our plans was a crucial first step.

That strategic investment needed to be addressed before we could move forward with our 1:1 and BYOD initiatives"

James Fendek
School Business Manager
Aldridge School – An Academy

"It's great to see really positive feedback from both staff and pupils at Aldridge so soon after go-live.

The school has taken the logical but often overlooked step of getting the network infrastructure right before introducing lots of devices and bandwidth hungry applications.

The wired and wireless network should be the foundation of any schools ICT development plan. A secondary school is a demanding environment for network so it pays to supplement local ICT skills with a network specialist to guarantee the very best experience for staff and pupils"

Andy McFarlane
Director - Wave 9



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