



GATEACRE SCHOOL'S CONTENT FILTERING IS REGARDED AS EXEMPLARY BY OFSTED

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Business need

Gateacre is a large secondary school, with 1017 pupils and 163 staff. The school needed to review its IT systems and processes so that it could monitor internet usage and meet the evolving requirements of its pupils and staff, whilst adhering to the Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) statutory guidance.

Solution

The Gateacre School met and exceeded key responsibilities around online safeguarding by deploying an all-in-one security solution, based on SonicWall's next generation firewalls and management reporting products.

Benefits

- Fast, secure and uninterrupted access to the internet
- Enhanced levels of detailed, relevant reporting
- Ability to fulfill the Department for Education's statutory guidance regulations
- Devices and applications more reliable
- Increased productivity and ultimately enhanced learning

Solutions at a glance

- Next Generation Firewalls
- Management & Reporting

“Sonicwall CFS 4.0 has made a real difference from an online safeguarding perspective. The solution allows for clear and bespoke reports and the ability to configure alerts, which is a real bonus.”

DAVE GLOVER
IT NETWORK MANAGER



Gateacre School

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Company	Gateacre School
Industry	Education
Country	UK
Employees	1180
Website	www.gateacre.org

Today, because of the streamlining of its systems, Gateacre are in the enviable position of being able to support 1180 staff and pupils with just two IT staff, saving money on operational costs that have been reinvested into ensuring better outcomes for its pupils.

Gateacre School was rebuilt in 2011 under the Building Schools For the Future (BSF) government initiative. The modern building has been beautifully designed around a central glass atrium and has outstanding facilities including a theatre, art studios and state-of-the-art technologies within the classrooms. It's a wonderful and rapidly improving school that strives to provide an inspirational learning environment.

The school firmly believes that digital communication helps teachers and pupils learn from each other – information downloaded from the internet often stimulates discussions, promotes creativity and increases awareness of context to promote effective learning. The school therefore has a duty to provide students with reliable internet access as part of their learning experience.

The Leadership team at Gateacre School is also acutely aware that use of new technologies to access the internet can put young people at risk within and outside the school and it is absolutely essential that it provides the necessary safeguards to help ensure that these risks are managed and reduced.

In September 2016 the government made it a statutory requirement for schools to comply with their Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) Guidance. Under these guidelines schools are expected to deploy appropriate filtering and monitoring systems, and provide detailed reports on all internet usage during any given timeframe.

Following an Ofsted inspection in May 2016, the school was deemed to be unable to fully discharge its broader safeguarding requirements and was placed under special measures to improve their systems and processes so that they could provide school inspectors with more detailed information around its safeguarding processes and training programs, including how they monitor use of applications and information downloaded from the internet during any given time.

Lack of visibility, a real issue in safeguarding children at school

Gateacre is not alone in this respect; many schools suffer from this lack of visibility today. Shared service providers are often unable to provide the detailed reporting required to monitor and safeguard children in accordance with today's guidance. Furthermore, secondary schools have typically increased their throughput of data exponentially and often the hardware deployed by schools cannot cope with the massively increased levels of internet usage.

The Ofsted inspection carried out at Gateacre School highlighted that safeguarding procedures were too lax and could not be relied upon to identify when pupils may be at risk. Clearly action was needed.

In September 2016 a new head teacher was appointed and a complete review of the school's safeguarding processes was carried out. This included a review of all IT systems, including the internet filtering and monitoring, since this plays a huge part in a school's online safeguarding following the changes to KCSiE.

System requirements

Hardware

HA Pair of SonicWall NSA 4600's in active/passive mode

Software

SonicWall Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite

The KCSiE guidance includes the 'Prevent Duty', which evolved from the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act in 2015 and sets out the legal duties schools must follow to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 in schools and colleges. This means that schools must deploy appropriate filtering and monitoring tools that would include the police assessed lists of unlawful terrorist content, produced on behalf of the home office by the Counter-Terrorism Internet Referral Unit (CTIRU) as well as the Child Abuse Image Content (CAIC) content lists supplied and maintained by the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) to safeguard children against accessing unsuitable images on the internet. Under these new regulations schools are expected to provide detailed reports on all internet usage during any given timeframe.

Comprehensive all-in-one security platform

IT specialist Nviron had worked closely with Gateacre School, historically supplying and installing a new IT system to meet the evolving ICT requirements of the school. This included the provision of a secure network that could be managed by its own IT department. Nviron recommended a SonicWall Network Security Appliance (NSA) 4600 Firewall in High Availability (HA) together with a SonicWall Comprehensive Gateway Security Suite (CGSS) and Fastvue Reporter for SonicWall.

Andy Carty, Business Development Officer from Nviron, commented; "We decided to work with SonicWall as it was able to provide an all-in-one security solution that encompassed both deep level security and the reporting levels required by the school, plus it is the only vendor that incorporates all the content lists needed to meet the requirements for filtering and monitoring, detailed by KCSiE, via dedicated categories."

Fastvue Reporter for SonicWall was also recommended. This software package intelligently interprets SonicWall log files and is easily able to extract detailed user activity on the web, during any particular timeframe, producing defined

reports that can be sent in real-time or on a schedule to safeguarding officers. SonicWall's Content Filtering Service (CFS) 4.0 can be mapped to report around the government KCSiE guidelines, which address safety and security concerns, with controls to enforce Internet use policies by blocking access to harmful and inappropriate web content.

Gateacre School's content filtering technology described by Ofsted as exemplary

By November 2016, as a result of strong leadership and the dedication of the staff and pupils, Gateacre School's safeguarding procedures across the board had been transformed. The school was now deemed to be 'effective' in this regard by Ofsted. With regards to the online safeguarding aspect, Ofsted commented that: "The school's filtering systems to protect pupils when using information technology are exemplary and comply with the very latest guidance in this respect."

Dave Glover, IT Network Manager at Gateacre School, commented: "Sonicwall CFS 4.0 has made a real difference from an online safeguarding perspective. We can now control access with greater flexibility and have the assurance of knowing that all aspects of the KCSiE guidance are incorporated into our solution. The solution allows for clear and bespoke reports and the ability to configure alerts, which is a real bonus."

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**ANDY CARTY,
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
OFFICER FROM NVIRON**