



Wolverhampton Grammar School trusts Sophos MDR for long-term cybersecurity protection

Founded in 1512, Wolverhampton Grammar School is an award-winning, co-educational independent day school. The school was founded in 1512 by Sir Stephen Jenyns to provide a “good, moral education” for the children of Wolverhampton, with pupils now attending from across Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, Shropshire and the wider West Midlands region.

CUSTOMER-AT-A-GLANCE



Wolverhampton Grammar School

Industry
Education

Number of users
1000+

Sophos Customer
Since 2017

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“There is a growing trend of schools, colleges and universities being successfully targeted by cyber criminals. We have been very aware of this, which is why we now use the MDR service from Sophos.”

Paul Hancox, System Manager, Wolverhampton Grammar School



Long-term Sophos customer Wolverhampton Grammar School began using Sophos MDR in June 2023 and the team there are delighted with the results. Having been a Sophos customer since 2017, they often monitor competing solutions to compare functionality and price. Yet they have continued to use Sophos despite learning about the features and benefits of alternative MDR solutions. Here we talk to the School's System Manager Paul Hancox, and find out why the School chose Sophos over and above competing MDR providers, and the benefits his team and the School see as a result.

Business challenges

With increasingly complex and prevalent cyberattacks globally, the IT team of four at Wolverhampton Grammar School realised they didn't have the time or threat insights to keep the School protected 24/7/365. Hiring additional team members was not an option, even with extra people, there was no capacity to keep the school, staff and students safe every minute of every day.

Protecting the School's reputation is also constantly front of mind for the IT team. As a fee-paying school, any reputational damage caused by a cyberattack could affect future revenue. Keeping costs down and balancing the books is also a challenge, and any cybersecurity solutions must be financially viable in the long-term, as well as effective.

The technical solution

With 1,000 devices at school as part of the BYOD programme, the IT team needed robust cybersecurity protection that covered the technology on-premise, as well as devices on the move. Since 2017, the School had been using Sophos Central Intercept X Advanced, but was aware of the need to fortify its defences based on increasing threats and limited capacity. The School therefore moved to Sophos MDR for 24/7/365 cover, starting in June 2023.

With Sophos MDR, the IT team at Wolverhampton Grammar School receive alerts if there ever is an issue or threat, as well as information on root cause analysis. The Sophos MDR team then rapidly assess and manage the threat.



“During the process we engaged with a number of leading industry vendors, as well as looking at an independent SOC. Sophos compared very favourably in terms of meeting our coverage goals and long-term financial viability.”

Paul Hancox, System Manager, Wolverhampton Grammar School

Paul says he appreciates the MDR service because it proactively picks up issues that the School may not have previously known about before it is too late.

- › Sophos MDR global cybersecurity experts monitor the school's environment 24/7
- › If a threat is detected they immediately take action and notify the IT team
- › Sophos can eliminate the threat, identify the root cause, and provide guidance on stopping similar threats in the future

Business benefits

In addition to robust and reliable cybersecurity protection all day, every day, Paul believes that one key benefit that sets Sophos apart from its competitors is its knowledge and understanding of the needs of the education sector.

This includes the understanding of the financial constraints in education and that any solution has to be financially viable for years to come. He also values the support he gets from his Sophos account manager who he says, ‘is always prompt, professional and regularly reaches out to stay in touch with the school’.

Additionally, Paul says he appreciates the longstanding relationship the School has with Sophos, alongside the MDR team's expertise, and the reassurance that provides. In terms of implementation, he says, ‘this has been very positive for our experience as a school, from point of contact to implementation, it was safe, straightforward and painless’. The School has signed a three-year MDR licence agreement with Sophos, testament to the trust Paul places in the company and its solutions.

“Cybersecurity protection is a huge undertaking for schools. Sophos MDR gives us a total solution, with peace of mind, and it saves us huge chunks of time.”

Paul Hancox, System Manager, Wolverhampton Grammar School



To find out more about Sophos solutions, call (0)8447 671131 or email sales@sophos.com