

# SECURUS

## Case Study

### Protecting students at St Paul's Catholic College

- How can a school protect its pupils from the potential dangers that ICT can present, when the most sophisticated users of ICT are often the pupils themselves?
- How can teachers, many of whom are not ICT specialists, be reasonably expected to constantly monitor ICT use?
- How can a school find out exactly what is being accessed and when, and capture the hard evidence needed to tackle any problems identified?



#### Common Problems

These questions, and many others like them, are being asked in schools every day, and St Paul's Catholic College in Sunbury-on-Thames is no exception. A mixed comprehensive that serves a diverse area of Surrey and London Boroughs, the school has a commitment to academic excellence married with a genuine care and concern for its pupils that goes beyond its 'responsibilities'.

"Our problems were no different to those you'd expect to find in any other school," said Simon Uttley, Headmaster of St Paul's Catholic College. "We had some instances of emails being used in destructive ways and pupils circumventing our stringent safeguards to access blocked sites – but realistically we knew that there was an awful lot of other activity that was going on undetected.

#### Desktop Monitoring

This situation, together with the fact that the school was moving towards a virtual learning environment, acted as a catalyst to look into desktop monitoring solutions. Andrew Smith, ICT Coordinator at St Paul's was familiar with Securus from other schools and decided to run a trial.

"We installed Securus so that we could get an accurate picture of 'normal' ICT usage and also ascertain the functionality of the product," he said. "From that first day, when we saw how proactive Securus was – providing screenshots of every violation, both on and offline, along with details of the user, workstation, time and date – we were in no doubt that it was the right solution.

"Even though the majority of material that was flagged up was quite innocent, it was still impressive to be able to take the print outs to our senior management team and let them see for themselves why we needed Securus." Andrew was impressed by the way Securus worked collaboratively with him to produce a solution that was right for St Paul's.

"I felt that I was a partner with Securus, not a customer. From a technical point of view, I found the software to be very flexible and adaptable, and together with Securus I was able to tailor the product to meet our specific needs, and ensure that installation was as trouble free as possible."



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Simon Uttley, Headteacher



### Reassuring Parents, Teachers and Students

Securus is now a fully integrated part of the system at St Pauls’, and the school has already received positive feedback from parents and teachers.

“The installation of Securus has reduced parental concerns about ICT security, as illustrated by a parent who wrote how delighted she has been to read about Securus in the school magazine and how she felt a lot more comfortable letting her son use the school systems,” said Simon Uttley.

“And my teachers, to a great extent, feel the same. They feel this high degree of scrutiny and transparency protects their position and enables them to get on with the business of teaching, safe in the knowledge that the pupils are safe and on task.”

Securus has also provided reassurance for pupils. “We had a year 8 boy that was being bullied and he was concerned that bullies may continue by using electronic media. Both the pupil and his parents were greatly reassured when I explained Securus’ functionality,” he said.

Proving itself as a powerful deterrent against unacceptable behaviour, Securus has reduced opportunistic computer misuse by 50%. “Currently we have a dossier of examples of misuse, mostly minor. Senior staff are now able to investigate them with some precision based on the key words and detailed information provided with the screen capture,” said Simon.

The school is so impressed with the solution that it is looking to roll it out across its feeder schools. “As a technology college, we are supporting our feeder schools by designing virtual learning stations. We can’t in good conscience offer this functionality without including the protection that Securus provides.



This is extremely important as the national strategy for learning platforms becomes critical. This rapid expansion must go hand in hand with an active, fit-for-purpose flexible solution – I feel strongly that Securus is this solution.”

Simon concludes: “No school, primary or secondary, can afford to operate without some form of protection, which needs to be active and provide specific information leading to resolution of the issues, rather than simply blocking.

“The solution also needs to not only address the problems a school may have today but also the ones of the future. We found answers to all these issues in Securus.”

- Securus is a desktop monitoring solution that detects, records and reports violations on a PC network that fall outside a school’s Acceptable Use Policy (AUP).
- Securus enables early identification of issues such as bullying, racism and predator grooming.
- Securus searches for inappropriate words and phrases in all applications, monitoring potentially harmful activities whether pupils and teachers are using the internet and email, or working offline in other applications such as Word.

**For more information, contact [sales@securus-software.com](mailto:sales@securus-software.com) or 01932 255 480**