

SECURUS

Case Study

Norton Hill School spreads the word about SECURUS

When it comes to sharing useful information, Norton Hill School in Bath has a well-earned reputation to uphold.

The top-achieving Somerset comprehensive is not only a Training School and a Leading Edge School, committed to passing on its expertise to help support schools in need of extra help and guidance – but is also a Specialist Technology School.



Protecting Students

So it comes as no surprise that the school should not only choose a cutting edge system to protect its own students but be instrumental in the introduction of Securus to schools throughout the South West of England.

Assistant Head Teacher with responsibility for ICT, Mark Lynch recommended Securus to education colleagues in Somerset after Norton Hill School purchased the system and agreed to take part in trialling the latest upgrade.

"I was very impressed by the level of security Securus could offer," says Mr Lynch, who before joining the school four years ago worked in the IT industry and is familiar with the competition.

"The ICT world is changing on an almost daily basis and it's not easy to protect children 100 per cent. But Securus is a very good product - it's incredibly simple to use, effective and it has not adversely affected our network performance in any way."

Acceptable Behaviour Online

Developed by Securus Software Limited, Securus searches for inappropriate words and phrases in all applications and monitors for harmful activities, whether students and teachers are online using the internet or working offline in other applications. It provides hard evidence for teachers, with screenshots captured every time a violation occurs, saved with details of the user, workstation, time, date and nature of the incident.

When a pupil logs on, the software can present the School's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP). It can be set up so that the student has to accept the policy. Choosing not to accept it will deny the student access to the system. From the point of acceptance, every action and communication by the pupil is monitored, and any attempted violations are recorded as screenshots, with date, time and the identity of the pupil being logged automatically.



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Mark Lynch, Assistant Headteacher,
Norton Hill School, Bath

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Student Responsibility

At Norton Hill School, Securus now operates continuously on all workstations and laptops, monitoring all actions. Mark Lynch believes that the use of Securus has helped to educate the students to use the system in a more responsible manner.

When they first use the system they are given guidance on what is acceptable and what is not, and the use of Securus helps to remind them of their responsibilities towards the correct usage of ICT.

Students are also aware that if they do decide to misuse the ICT facilities they will be caught. The school is keen to help students understand their responsibility to society with their use of ICT. Students are reminded that what they learn in school can be applied to the world of work, and that abuse is abuse, wherever it takes place.

Parental Support

"When Securus does catch a student attempting to break the AUP or looking at concerning material, or using words and phrases that are inappropriate or threatening, my role is to interview the students in the first instance and establish what they were trying to do.

"If the violation is serious, I contact parents who are usually extremely supportive. With Securus the evidence is clear and undisputable. It is of the utmost importance that parental worries relating to ICT use are reduced and that they are confident that their child is safely using the technology while at school.

"I like to be involved with the development of products like this rather than to buy off the shelf and we were very pleased to be asked to provide feedback information to Securus on how the latest version is performing. As a result of feedback from us the company has made changes to the functionality of the software to more closely reflect the school environment. We are more than happy to work with other schools and share our experience and knowledge," he adds.



Prior to installing Securus, Norton Hill School relied on staff surveillance and word of mouth among the students to police the school's ICT network. But with 450 computers and 100 laptops in school, Mark Lynch started looking for a security system that would protect both students and staff.

The main requirements were to protect students from paedophiles during internet use, to prevent pupils from accessing inappropriate websites and from using unacceptable and threatening language in documents and emails.

Safeguard your pupils from cyber-bullying, predator grooming, racist and harmful behaviour

For a FREE EVALUATION, contact sales@securus-software.com or 01932 255 480

