



Bishop Justus CE School

Creating a flexible, secure learning environment for students

Education | Extranet Security | AppGate



"It was AppGate's control features that we particularly liked. We've got much greater control over what students can do, and visibility of what they are accessing – we just look at the logs. As a result it's given us confidence about the security of the network. With AppGate we know that students will only be able to access what we want them to access."

"The feedback we've had from staff and students is very positive. They like using the system and it's proved to be reliable and robust."



Kevin Watson
IT Director
Bishop Justus,
Church of England School

Background

Bishop Justus Church of England School in London, UK, was established in September 2004 and in 2009 opened the new 6th form to students over the age of 16. Students in the 6th form at Bishop Justus are expected to be more independent and self-disciplined about their studies. To support them, the school wanted 6th formers to have the option to be able to use their own laptops in school and to have access to all the educational resources they might need such as the school's VLE, the Internet, and more importantly the wealth of data, applications and services available on the school's own local network.

Bishop Justus needed a cost effective solution that would give students the flexibility to connect to the resources they needed whilst also securing traffic from students' laptops to protect the school's network from unauthorized users, viruses and malware.

Requirements

Access from any device: 6th form students should not be restricted to any particular laptop brand or operating system, so the solution should be able to support any platform (eg. Windows, Linux, Mac OSX).

Strong security and data protection: students should be able to access only the information and services they need for their studies. All other data and applications on the network should be protected from unauthorized users, viruses and malware.

Easy to use: to minimise the requirement for admin support, the service should be easy to use for students and easy to administer.

Flexible and scalable: Students should be able to connect to the resources they need over the wireless access point. The solution should be scalable to support additional users as more students sign up for the service, and as the 6th form grows in the future.

Solution

Metropolitan Networks, a certified Cryptzone AppGate partner and specialist in network security systems, worked with the Bishop Justus IT team to design, install and support the appropriate solution. AppGate's network security technology combines all the functionality required for remote access and access control in one easy to use and cost effective solution. They identified that the AppGate system would meet the school's requirements for secure access, and deliver several other benefits as well, providing great value for money.

"AppGate has given us a lot more than we expected", says Kevin Watson, IT Director for Bishop Justus. "We've got the benefit of being able to allow the 6th form to connect to our network, but we've been able to add other services as well, like allowing the students to connect securely from home. And staff can use the AppGate to work from home as well."

An AppGate Security Server was installed behind the firewall and integrated into the school's network. The AppGate system supports a wide range of client platforms so students are able to connect using any laptop they own. The graphical user interface shows students which resources they are permitted to access eg. folders, applications, Internet browsing and services like printing on particular printers in the school. AppGate automatically blocks access unless the user is authenticated and authorized. So even if there are other resources stored on the network, an unauthorized user won't be able to see them and confidential data remains protected. AppGate's advanced roles and right management tools gives administrators granular control over which network resources each user can access, so students can be restricted to accessing just the student files while staff can be granted access to a wider range of resources. Using the Client Check functionality, key criteria such as whether the laptop is

AppGate's advanced roles and right management tools gives administrators granular control

running the latest anti-virus software can be checked before connecting to the network.

The school has a managed web filtering proxy server, which can give individual users different levels of access for browsing. This allows the school to implement a more relaxed browsing policy for the 6th form so they can access a broader range of materials for their course work. After initial trials with a few 6th formers, the AppGate service has been launched and is catching on with students and with staff who can now securely access the intranet and data files using their home computers. "The feedback we've had from staff and students is very positive. They like using the system and it's proved to be reliable and robust", says Watson.

Future

"At the moment the AppGate is really there to support our 6th form and our staff to give them secure remote access to the resources they need", says Watson. "But it's an ongoing voyage of discovery as we learn more about what the AppGate system can do. We will need to expand the system in the future as the 6th form grows. We might even look at things like community support, providing a service for members of our local community so they can come and sit in the school café and browse the Internet – we can use the AppGate connectivity to do that."

Benefits



Comprehensive solution

AppGate combines all the functionality required for remote access, access control and network security into one solution providing a platform to support all user requirements.

Secure remote access

Provides a flexible, and secure way for staff and students to work from home.

Access control

Allows different access policies to be applied to different users.

Automatic monitoring and reporting

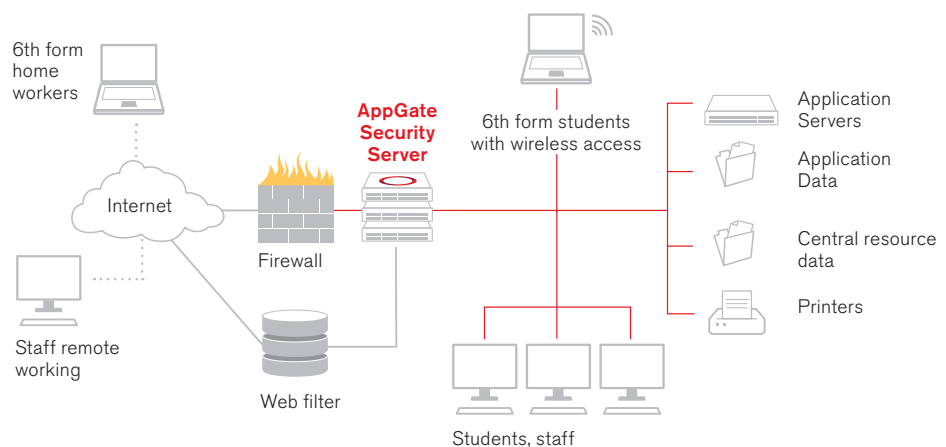
Provides visibility of user actions and confidence that security policies are being enforced.

User-friendly interface

A simple, familiar working environment reduces demands for admin support.

Scalable solution

It's easy to start with a small installation and scale-up as new services are rolled out and users increase.



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Cryptzone solutions mitigate information security risks in the key areas of Policy Compliance, Content Security, Secure Access and Endpoint Security.

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