

Litcham School Case Study

Litcham High and Litcham Primary have worked closely together for many years, evolving to have a shared board of governors up to becoming an all-through school from September 2013.

Part of bringing the schools together has been the development of their ICT infrastructure to allow the sharing of resources & data, free movement of staff & pupils and to achieve cost savings.

The first stage of this project was to ensure that both networks were secure before creating a link between the two, as any insecurity at one site could cause problems at the other. The existing wireless access points at the primary site used insecure WEP encryption; these were replaced with Netgear points that can be integrated with the High School's existing managed wireless network.

Once both sites were secure, the connection between the two sites was opened on the School Wide Area Network. We ensure that restrictions were put in place to keep each site as secure as possible. To further increase security, management and updating of the Primary site's Antivirus is controlled by the High School.

The next part of the project was to add the primary site into the High School's Microsoft Site Licence. The Enrolment for Education Solutions (EES) provides the school with all its Desktop, Office and CALs for a fixed annual fee based on the number of staff. It gives the school the benefit of not having to manage licence quantities and compliance as well as being eligible for the latest version of all software. This encompassing agreement provided the school with massive cost savings compared to purchasing separate Microsoft licences.

We then rebuilt all the Primary computers with Microsoft Windows 7 and Office 2010 and a new server was installed. This acts as a second domain controller of the High School's Network. This improves the redundancy and disaster recovery for both sites. It also allows data to be synchronised near-instantly to both locations, allowing staff to work on documents wherever they happen to be and login at each site with a single set of credentials.

Litcham High School is an 11-16 school with 560 pupils, serving a large rural community in mid-Norfolk. It is a high-performing school: in 2011, 26% of all GCSE grades were at A* or A, a figure well above the national and county average. It is proud to be a genuine comprehensive school.

Litcham Primary is less than ½ mile from the High School and has 85 pupils. The vision is that it should provide high quality education in a healthy, vital and sustainable school where all learn to work together for a better future. It provides a caring, supportive and stimulating environment and community.

Poynter Professional Services provide IT services in the UK. From an office in Norwich, services include helpdesk, technical support and consultancy with a broad experience and skillset that is focused on Microsoft products and technologies. Poynter have supported Litcham High's ICT for the past 13 years.