

SECURUS

Case Study

Changing how pupils behave in Upton-by-Chester

In June 2008, Upton-by-Chester High School in Cheshire improved its e-safety measures by installing Securus to monitor its computers. With concerns over the use of proxy bypass sites as well as bullying and predator grooming, the introduction of Securus brought about an immediate, positive and lasting change in student behaviour.



Identifying proxy bypasses

Most of the school's 1,650 pupils, who are aged between 11 and 18, act in both an appropriate and safe way. However, Ian Clegg, the school's network manager, recognised that there was a significant minority who were flouting the acceptable use policy that was intended to protect them. In a pilot project run in conjunction with Cheshire County Council, the school started using Securus to monitor its computers and see what its pupils were really doing.

Ian explains: "One of the main things we wanted to do was to see where pupils had tried to use anonymous proxies and stop this. Securus did this very successfully. One website being used by our pupils offered a different unused proxy every day. Using Securus on this one site alone saved us going through the time-consuming process of banning the site every morning."

Capturing evidence of misuse

A further issue for the school was being able to prove when a student had acted in an inappropriate way. "Before Securus was installed, pupils were only likely to be caught if a teacher actually saw them doing something they shouldn't," says Ian. "However, if the problem occurred in an email, there might be no record of it in the pupil's account when it was checked."

One of the most powerful features of Securus is that it captures clear evidence of any violation as a screenshot. This shows exactly what took place and who was involved. "You might have certain suspicions but if you can't get the evidence, you can't prove it," continues Ian. "Securus captures any misuse automatically, catching them straight away. And when you show them the evidence, they can't say 'it wasn't me'."

This also means that Upton's teachers can spend less time worrying about what their pupils are doing, safe in the knowledge that any misuse or off-task activity in the classroom will be captured by Securus.

Benefits of Securus

- Helps meet Every Child Matters requirements
- Helps adopt Becta best practice
- Reduces hardware and software costs
- Raises e-safety standards and educational outcomes
- Transforms classroom behaviour
- Reduces cyberbullying
- Increases awareness of e-safety issues
- Helps identify and support vulnerable children
- Helps enforce AUPs



"Before Securus was installed, pupils were only likely to be caught if a teacher actually saw them doing something they shouldn't."

Ian Clegg, Network Manager, Upton-by-Chester High School

"In the first few days... we were catching 10 to 15 kids a day... now it's dropped to one or two a week. Securus made that much of a difference"

Ian Clegg, Network Manager



An effective deterrent

Yet perhaps the most powerful contribution Securus has made to Upton-by-Chester High School has been to provide a strong incentive for pupils to act more responsibly and moderate their behaviour and language.

As soon as Securus was installed, it started to make an immediate and positive impact on how the pupils were behaving. Ian says: "Initially, in the first few days, we were catching 10 to 15 kids a day, mostly for swearing or bullying. Now it's dropped down to once or twice a week. Securus made that much of a difference.

"Several pupils got banned from the network for short periods and this had the desired effect. Word soon got round that their actions were being monitored so the general language improved and pupils started behaving more responsibly. The longer we had Securus, the less disciplinary action we needed to take.

"After the first week, we took a few of the captured screenshots and made a short PowerPoint presentation, which we presented to each year group in an assembly. All of our pupils knew exactly what was being monitored and how it was being done and what would happen if they didn't abide by the AUP."

How many bullying emails and incidents does the school get now? "Not many, maybe three or four. Nothing lately," says Ian. "We had a few emails making threats but the worst offenders go to the headteacher immediately. It's the fact that Securus is always there, the kids are aware of it and they see that it works."

E-safety protection

Finally, a crucial reason for installing Securus at Upton was to protect pupils from potentially harmful situations, in particular predator grooming. By picking up phrases such as 'can you meet me', Securus ensures any attempts are identified quickly.

One incident raised some concern when a pupil arranged to meet someone they had never met before. With the captured email to hand, school staff were able to talk to the student with their parents and explain the potential dangers of what they were doing. "It might have been perfectly innocent" says Ian "but you can't say for sure. It does show how we are able to do our part and help keep our pupils safe outside of school as well."

Easy to use

Securus is a network solution that is configured and ready to go on its own server. This makes it quick and easy to implement in a few minutes.

"Securus has been of great value. Day-to-day it is straight-forward to run and is very simple to use. It captures screenshot evidence of any issues automatically and we have fine-tuned the system to reduce the number of time-consuming, low-level incidents it records." Ian Clegg



**Try Securus for yourself
and see what you miss on your network every day**

Ask about our free trial:
call +44 (0)1932 255 480, email schools@securus-software.com
or visit www.securus-software.com

