

Securing Educational Excellence: How Strathallan School Transformed Its Digital Infrastructure

About Strathallan School

Strathallan School stands as one of Scotland's premier Independent Schools, situated across 153 acres of stunning Perthshire countryside. Home to over 500 students, with more than half residing as boarders, the School has built its reputation on providing comprehensive education that extends beyond traditional academics into sports, creative arts, and programs like the Duke of Edinburgh award. Since 2022, the School has also become one of the first eSports campuses across the country, including elite-level equipment and immersion for all.

The School has been an innovator in Blended Learning, pivoting quickly to deliver high-quality education outcomes to students overseas, truly stretching the digital and physical boundaries of learning. Keeping safeguarding, access and content delivery at the core of Strath Worldwide, the underlying security infrastructure of the School has been paramount to its ongoing success.



The Challenge

The post-COVID era presented Strathallan with unprecedented challenges in maintaining educational excellence while adapting to new digital demands. The School needed to ensure secure connectivity across their extensive campus while protecting students and staff from increasing cyber threats. With more boarding students using multiple connected devices, the demand for robust IT infrastructure and proper safeguarding measures became paramount.

"When Strathallan School called out for a partner to understand their needs, and build a trusted security fabric, Switchshop were on hand to support," explains Pat Gillen, Account Director at Switchshop. "Within the ever-shifting world of cyber security, Strathallan School recognised their need for a modern, robust, fit for purpose security fabric that mirrored the ethos of the School."

The Solution

Working with Switchshop, Strathallan implemented a comprehensive security-centric approach to their digital infrastructure. At the core of this transformation was the deployment of next-generation firewalls with deep-packet inspection and zero-trust network access. The School integrated cloud-based appliances alongside on-premise solutions, implementing advanced sandboxing technology for threat detection and sophisticated data logging tools for enhanced visibility.

The solution included dedicated helpdesk support with Switchshop's in-house engineers who provided proactive monitoring and maintenance. This personal touch ensured rapid issue resolution through expert field engineering support, with engineers who took pride in tracking problems to their source.



Key Benefits

The transformation of Strathallan's digital infrastructure has yielded three significant advantages. First, the enhanced educational experience now provides seamless connectivity across the entire campus, supporting innovative initiatives like the School's eSports campus while improving communication between boarders and their families.

Second, the strengthened security posture has enabled real-time safeguarding capabilities and comprehensive threat protection. This has fostered better visibility into daily operations and improved collaboration between IT experts and safeguarding officers.

Third, the future-ready infrastructure provides a scalable platform for emerging technologies, including secure IoT environments and 5G capabilities, while maximising return on investment from existing assets.

Client Testimonials

Annie Paul, Director of IT at Strathallan School stated:

"When the School needed support, Switchshop were there. They helped us overcome a 3-year long connectivity challenge that various organisations had looked over and could not either replicate or repair, and in just 20 minutes were able to have not just a reason, but a clear path to resolution and next steps to ensure it doesn't happen again."

"Switchshop are absolutely not just a shop as the hashtag suggests. They're a trusted partner who put educational excellence and innovation at the heart of everything they do."

"In a partnership with Switchshop, The School have that trusted advisor, who meets the ethos and culture of Strathallan, and work hard together, putting the students at the heart of service delivery, cyber security, and safeguarding for a bright future ahead."

Why Switchshop?

Pat Gillen, Account Director at Switchshop said:

"With over two decades of experience in the education sector, Switchshop brings unique value to Strathallan School through their technical expertise at both engineering and strategic levels. Day to day student-centric outcomes required a modern, robust and fit for purpose security foundation," notes Gillen. "Switchshop have worked with Scottish independent Schools over the past 20 years, and recognise ways to add value, whether it's next generations firewalling, safeguarding solutions, or student centric solutions, we are here to support."

Conclusion

Through their partnership with Switchshop, Strathallan School has successfully transformed its digital infrastructure to meet modern educational demands while maintaining the highest standards of security. This investment has not only enhanced the current learning environment but has also established a solid foundation for future technological innovations, ensuring Strathallan remains at the forefront of educational excellence.

