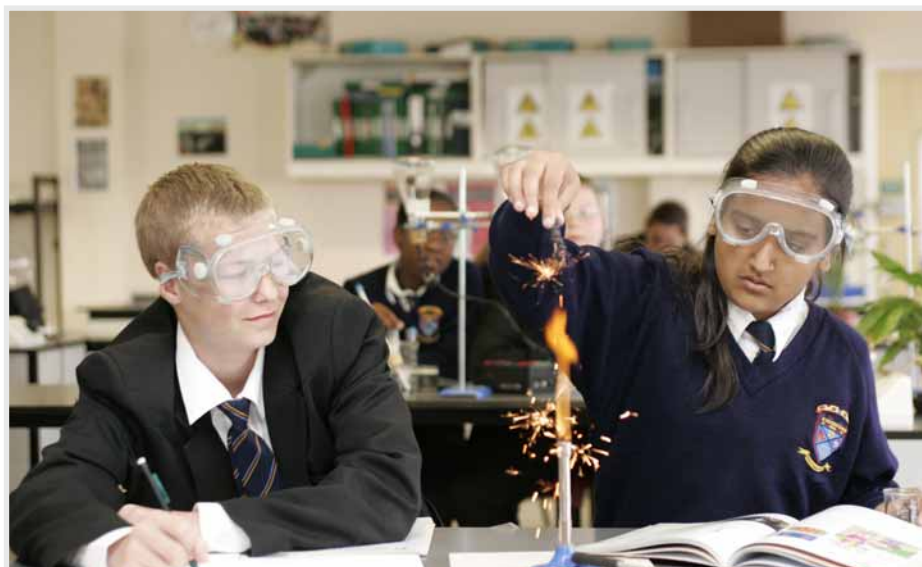


## Kingsford Community School

## EDUCATION

Kingsford Community School needed to complete its programme of network improvements with better email gateway security. The school decided to replace its existing software solution, which had limited blocking capability, to increase the spam catch rate and reduce false positives. A Sophos Email Security Appliance now provides complete malware protection at the gateway and stops five times as much spam, with minimal administrative support.



### Business challenge

Kingsford Community School provides comprehensive education for more than 1300 boys and girls aged 11 to 16 at Beckton in the London borough of Newham, just six miles east of the City. It was established under a private funding initiative in 2000, and moved to its current purpose-built premises two years later. The school is involved in the national "Excellence in Cities" scheme and the local Safer Schools Partnership. It has also been awarded the national Sportsmark.

Kingsford's students are drawn from a multicultural community, and have 14 different first languages between them. As a Specialist Language College, the school offers a wide range of language

teaching, including Russian and Mandarin. Information technology also forms a key part of both the curriculum and administration at Kingsford School – from morning and afternoon registration to specific software qualifications for students.

IT manager Steve Blois has recently implemented a strategy to replace a specialist vendor's computing products with a standard Windows-based network. Legacy problems he faced included poor email filtering and the need to rebuild trust by 200 school staff in the aftermath of a serious virus infection – before he joined the school, the Blaster worm had disabled the network for a month. From his previous experience as a Sophos

### Key facts

#### Organisation

Kingsford Community School

#### Location

London, UK

#### No of users

1500

#### Email traffic

1000 per week

#### Solutions

Sophos Email Security Appliance  
Sophos Anti-Virus for Windows

*"The Sophos Email Security Appliance was all I would expect from the company – it was easy to set up, and integrated into our network exactly as promised."*

*Steve Blois, IT Manager,  
Kingsford Community School*

user, Steve was confident that installing Sophos Anti-Virus on the school's Windows 2003 server and XP clients would safeguard the network from the rising tide of viruses, spyware, Trojans and worms. According to Steve, "Students are barred from connecting portable media such as USB memory sticks to the network, and we don't allow them email addresses or access to webmail. So once we had protected the server and desktops, the main potential source of infection and irritation was email and spam sent to staff."

The school's existing email gateway filter lacked sophistication, letting too much spam through to mailboxes but blocking some legitimate mail. Steve confirms, "Our staff suffered from the usual spam problem that arises when people have to use their personal workplace email address to order goods and services. We were able to block individual IP addresses, but the administrative time involved in this and releasing legitimate messages that had been blocked was unacceptable."

## Technology solution

The school's IT vendor recommended the Sophos Email Security Appliance as an alternative to a software solution. Steve Blois hadn't considered a gateway appliance, but says, "I knew that a Sophos solution would be easy to set up and would do exactly what they claimed. Also, if we needed help, Sophos has the best support team I've come across – their level of technical knowledge is fantastic." He initially set up a test network in the summer term and ran the Sophos appliance during the subsequent holiday. Once he'd directed all inbound mail to the appliance, it just took care of itself. "We went live on the main network in the autumn term, just using the default configuration, and immediately noticed that the appliance was detecting and blocking much more spam than our previous solution," claims Steve.

The Sophos Email Security Appliance provides industry-leading protection against spam, viruses, spyware and Trojans, blocking or quarantining up to 98.9% of unwanted email, as well as enforcing inbound and outbound email content policy. It removes or automates most regular maintenance tasks, and a web-based management console minimises administrative



effort by displaying actionable information in a single, easy-to-use window. Steve has no trouble tracking any messages that need to be released from the onboard quarantine and can easily add specific addresses to the list of allowed senders. The Sophos appliance also offers many of the benefits of a managed service, communicating with Sophos every five minutes, automatically receiving anti-spam and anti-virus updates and reporting on protection status. If Steve ever needs additional help, he can initiate remote assistance via a secure connection to Sophos.

## Business results

From gateway to desktop, the Kingsford Community School network is now protected at all levels from the threat of malware infection, the productivity losses of dealing with spam, and the nuisance of incorrectly blocked emails. "The Sophos appliance is now our first tier of protection against malware," says Steve Blois, "and although our mail volume is not high – about 1000 messages a week – the level of spam detection has increased five-fold to around 50 junk emails a week." He continues, "If I need to release blocked items such as .exe files that I need as part of my job, it's very straightforward, and school staff are now much more confident that they will get exactly the mail they want."

Steve occasionally adds spam sources to his block list, but otherwise finds that the need for regular administration has virtually disappeared. He concludes, "This is great for the small team I have here, as we can concentrate on making the benefits of information technology work for the school, rather than the other way round. I have no hesitation in recommending Sophos solutions to any school that takes network security seriously."

To find out how Sophos products can help protect your organisation, visit [www.sophos.com/products](http://www.sophos.com/products)