



All Hallows Catholic College
Business and Enterprise Specialist College

e-safety Protection, engendering values

The Every Child Matters agenda encompasses child safety as one of its principal aims. This can cover physical safety, for example ensuring the school premises are secure as well as e-safety when children are using school ICT resources.

All Hallows Catholic College is situated in Macclesfield, Cheshire. It is a voluntary aided 11-19 Church school with Business and Enterprise College status, established by the Diocese of Shrewsbury in partnership with Cheshire County Council. All Hallows is regularly oversubscribed and has expanded its roll to accommodate the demand for places. Expansion has brought with it a £3 million development programme and state of the art facilities for e-learning, new Science Laboratories, a Business and Enterprise Centre, Technology Suite, Sixth Form Centre, Drama and Recording Studios.

All Hallows is a 'faith school you can put your faith in' providing an education founded in traditional Christian values and high standards, combined with the use of modern teaching methods in state of the art facilities for e-learning. The school leadership recognised the need to provide comprehensive e-safety for students when they were using these facilities and also wanted to ensure that student productivity was not being reduced by inappropriate use of the College's ICT resources. Late in 2006 it was decided that a new user monitoring and image control solution should be implemented.

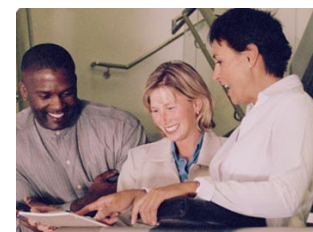
Comprehensive user monitoring and image interdiction

Wallace Johnston, head of e-systems at All Hallows explains. "We had already implemented ISA server and antivirus solutions, but we knew that these only provided a very basic level of protection. We needed a user monitoring solution that could provide us with protection against more sophisticated and evolving threats like cyber-bullying and so we reviewed the market to see what was available."

The College eventually chose the e-safe education solution from e-safe education Ltd. "It provided the most sophisticated and configurable user monitoring and image control that we could find", said Wallace. "And importantly it was very cost-effective."

e-safe education provides an integrated and comprehensive approach to e-safety that helps to:

- Improve student productivity
- Reduce the risk of legal liability arising through ICT misuse within the school
- Put governors and senior management back in control of ICT resources
- Encourage a standard of responsible ICT use from students and staff



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They have invested a great deal of time and effort in developing the solution and importantly that development is continuously ongoing. That is important as the threats we face in e-safety are continually evolving, so we must always seek to be one step ahead."

*Wallace Johnston
Head of ICT*

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Every Child Really Matters

<http://www.esafeeducation.co.uk/>





Flexible control

The solution was implemented across All Hallows during June 2007. *e-safe* education consultants trained the technical staff at the College to enable them to refine and configure the solution so that it could be tailored to exactly meet their requirements.

As Wallace explained, it was this inherent flexibility that is vital to the College. “The Image Interdiction element of *e-safe* education, which provides comprehensive image control over inappropriate content, initially created a number of “false positives” such as pictures that had large elements of wood in them. This was causing our design & technology department problems. By using the tools within the software we were able to modify the settings to reduce these issues on the PCs within that department whilst maintaining high level of control elsewhere in the College. “Similarly, for the contextual word and phrase monitoring element, that controls words and phrases in Web sites and applications like Microsoft Word, we discussed what was permissible with the teaching staff. We were then able to configure *e-safe* education to block the words that really were a problem.”

Documental proof of abuse

All Hallows has a very comprehensive Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for both staff and students and these are an integral and important part of managing *e-safety* as Wallace explained. “No member of staff is allowed to use College ICT resources until they have signed the AUP. Similarly, students are given limited access for the first week, after which they must sign their AUP for continued use.”

This ensures that every ICT user throughout the College knows their responsibilities and is aware of the consequences of breaking the rules. As *e-safe* education records all incidences of inappropriate use, documented evidence is automatically available. This has proved extremely useful for All Hallows, when the actions of one individual who had previously eluded detection, was finally caught. “Their actions were deliberate and calculated, resulting in totally unacceptable behaviour. With *e-safe* education in place and records of the transgressions recorded, the governors were able to review the evidence, enabling them to act swiftly and decisively. This sent out a clear message to all of our stakeholders that it was important to comply with our Acceptable Use Policy”, said Wallace.

Recent enhancements to the latest version of *e-safe* education have meant that transgressors are now warned through personalised messages that appear on screen the moment they breach policy, encouraging behavioural change so that the school can determine if the actions were accidental or not, ensuring that only serious or persistent offenders face the risk of a sanction.

Evolving solution

Wallace is convinced that *e-safe* education’s enforcement of the AUP has enabled the College to fulfil the requirements of *e-safety* with respect to the Every Child Matters agenda. “It’s helped us to manage *e-safety* and encourage the values of the school’s cultural and faith ethos”, he said. “The team at *e-safe* education demonstrated an understanding and expertise of the problems schools face in *e-safety* from the outset and have produced a solution that met all our objectives. Their technical support is excellent. Whenever we have a problem or question on the solution we get a rapid and knowledgeable response”.

