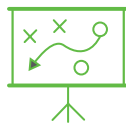


GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

Academic excellence built on a solid RUCKUS® network foundation



The Gardener Schools Group (GSG) is a family-owned company founded by teachers with a focus on academic excellence. The group comprises four co-educational schools and one nursery located in London across seven sites: Ravenscourt Park Preparatory School (opened in 1991), Kew Green Preparatory School (opened in 2004), Kew House Senior School (opened in 2013), Maida Vale School (opened in 2020), and Kew Green Nursery (opened in 2022). Currently, GSG schools educate nearly 2,000 pupils aged 2-18 years and employ 300 staff. It offers an education grounded in distinct values and with the overarching belief that talent and creativity should be fostered so each student can reach their full potential.



Requirements	Solution	Key outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-speed always-on Wi-Fi® network Become a serverless organisation Easy-to-use single-pane-of-glass dashboard Reduce engineering callouts Simple upgrade path to the latest standards Single network provider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RUCKUS indoor Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 access points (APs) RUCKUS Outdoor Wi-Fi APs RUCKUS ICX® switches RUCKUS One™ platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better user experience No more Wi-Fi black spots Faster resolution times and near-zero call-backs Ability to repurpose wireless APs Improved throughput for larger spaces Complete visibility of the network Technical team time saving



The approach of the group is holistic, with a balanced focus on a child's intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and emotional development. The schools serve as hubs for their community of parents, students, and staff, following an "open door policy". This approach leads to excellent academic results, well-rounded and thoughtful students, and happy and energised school communities.

Challenges

Due to the increasing demand for Wi-Fi use and a mixture of steel, concrete and wood construction materials in their buildings across their campuses, some areas of the school had patchy or weak signals. Some devices had trouble roaming between access points, causing connectivity issues and loss of speed that the Schools would ideally like. The senior leadership teams recognised that faster Wi-Fi with higher availability would allow the teachers and students to take advantage of all the online tools and applications to enhance teaching and learning.

As with most IT solutions, the Wi-Fi network system needed refreshing,

to improve the service provided and reduce the requests for IT support that could otherwise be deployed to support the teaching. The subsequent time and money on specialist IT consultancy visits which were needed to address any technical issues from the legacy systems, would be better used to focus on more strategic IT endeavours, and investment in the latest technology.

Another key IT challenge was to simplify network management and reduce operational costs. Additionally, integrating RUCKUS ICX network switches with Wi-Fi devices onto a new single management platform was a need for the group.

Due to the reasons mentioned above, it was essential to migrate to a single technology vendor platform to establish a reliable and consistent enterprise-grade network infrastructure. This was necessary because the schools wanted to take advantage of the improvements in technology, and enhance the teaching and learning that fitted in with the world outside the school gates", he added.

Facing the challenges through a single vendor solution managed by a one-stop management platform

"Gardener Schools Group selected a single vendor across the wired and wireless state to alleviate complexities. The solution performance required enterprise grade, with 100% uptime, and exceptional customer support, while being mindful of education budget constraints", said Jessen Chen, Director of Operations, Gardener Schools Group.

The new solution deployment was carried out in two weeks without any downtime by EducAite, one of the UK's leading IT organisations in the independent schools sector. EducAite also helped train the onsite IT team to take on a self-service management role in the new management platform.

The installation deployed a combination of RUCKUS indoor and outdoor Wi-Fi 6 and Wi-Fi 7 APs across all buildings. All these APs and the old, existing ones are now managed by RUCKUS One, the AI-driven converged

network assurance, service delivery and business intelligence platform able to also integrate the RUCKUS ICX network switches.

The RUCKUS Wi-Fi 7 AP, the latest addition to the RUCKUS portfolio, powered by RUCKUS AI™, offers improved user and IT staff experience through:

- **Higher throughput and capacity** through wider 6 GHz bandwidth and new signal modulation schemes
- **Better resiliency** because enhanced AI identifies network incidents, auto-classifies them by severity levels, traces root causes and makes specific recommendations for remediation
- **Reduced latency and improved reliability** leveraging Wi-Fi 7's unique Multi-Link Operations (MLO) and punctured transmission capabilities.
- **Simplified advanced security** via exclusive patent-pending RUCKUS Dynamic PSK™ technology
- **Enhanced quality of service** over the 6 GHz band via AFC (where

possible), so customers can deploy 6 GHz Wi-Fi networks indoors and outdoors with the highest possible signal strength while complying with regulatory requirements

- **Integrated IoT** thanks to the built-in IoT radio that supports Bluetooth® Low Energy and Zigbee® and offers converged IT and OT management and assurance

In the education sector, these benefits emerge from a seamlessly supported learning environment, with greater capacity to connect more users and classrooms to stream videos, collaborate on shared documents or assignments, and support reliable virtual classes and subsequent online testing.

The RUCKUS family of ICX switches utilises a low-latency, non-blocking architecture that provides excellent throughput for the most demanding education applications. They also simplify network setup and management, enhance security and make upgrading super-easy.

Thanks to RUCKUS One, Gardener Schools Group can monitor and

manage its multisite Wi-Fi network and switches under a single management console.

The RUCKUS One dashboard provides a top-level view of the network. At a single glance, it shows the status of all school locations and, at each of them, it shows the status of the network devices (all APs and switches) and connected users, applying policies and security settings across different devices.

The AI and machine learning algorithms ensure that issues are identified before they become service affecting and cause downtime—prioritising and addressing the most urgent issues first. It also makes recommendations on changes to improve network performance. The AI Analytics incidence feature provides a list of all the incidents that occurred in the network and recommends actions to solve them, saving a lot of time for the IT department. The tool can generate reports of all wired and wireless devices and applications.





Top-rate benefits

“The new RUCKUS solution saved us hours of work. Now we see what the problem is and how to fix it. This allows the IT team to focus on strategic projects that will benefit student outcomes and provide an enhanced learning experience”, said Jessen Chen, director of operations, Gardener Schools Group.

By moving to the new RUCKUS Networks cloud solution, GSG benefits through:

- **Increase reliability:** RUCKUS high availability ensures that the network is up and running, providing a best-in-class student and staff experience.
- **Reduced operational costs:** The new solution reduces operational costs by integrating and repurposing previously installed APs, making better use of existing inventory and reducing project expenditure.
- **Enhanced visibility and control:** The RUCKUS One management single base interface provides full visibility of all devices, including ICX switches and connectivity issues, as they arise—leading to faster resolution times and near-zero call-backs. The solution allows consistent application of policies and security settings across the network, enhancing network security and compliance.
- **Time saving:** By using RUCKUS AI (self-healing/self-improving technologies) and automated firmware updating tools, the IT team can be proactive and focus on priorities.
- **Future proofing of their technology:** Implementation of the latest Wi-Fi 7 devices in high-use areas within campuses has improved throughput for larger spaces such as auditoriums.
- Discussions are currently underway to integrate IoT for buildings and facilities management into the IT estate, including CCTV, access control, heating, lighting, building sensors, and device/user tracking.

Lessons learned

“To ensure faster and easier implementation, it is quite important to have a high-quality cabling infrastructure. Additionally, it is crucial to phase out the installation process by assessing its impact on the users. Counting on an expert Partner like EducAite™ was essential to the network deployment’s success due to their knowledge of RUCKUS technology and the education sector. In summary, I consider it crucial to invest in a future-proof network infrastructure able to support emerging technologies and deliver proven performance and network reliability”, concluded Jessen Chen, Director of Operations

Gardener Schools Group

Having taught in the state sector for 20 years, Maria and Edward Gardener started a Saturday morning school for local children in their own home. Their warmth, creativity and effectiveness as teachers of small groups proved so popular, the classes quickly moved to a nearby church hall.

Due to the school's caring, family-centred ethos and the demand for this type of school, they soon became oversubscribed and has been highly influential in the way independent primary school education has changed in London in the past two decades.

<https://www.gardenerschools.com/>



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About RUCKUS Networks

RUCKUS Networks designs and builds truly purpose-driven network infrastructure that meets the strictest requirements of all kinds of enterprise environments. Together with our dedicated go-to-market partners, we enable customers to deliver exceptional network experiences, making RUCKUS Networks one of the most trusted brands in the business—a loyal companion ready to help get the job done whatever it takes. RUCKUS Networks is backed by the corporate resources of CommScope, which powers many of the world's most advanced networks.

www.ruckusnetworks.com

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