

Based in Barrow-in-Furness, St Bernard's Catholic High School exists to provide children in the area a vital, sympathetic and fully Christian environment in which they can grow intellectually, spiritually and physically. The school has over 100 pupils and staff.

The Challenge

The School had been using a Web filter supplied by Cumbria's Regional Broadband Consortium, however this meant that the School had no control over the functionality of the solution. On a day-to-day basis, this increased IT management time and frustrated users, as Jason Shields, Senior ICT Technician at the School, explains: "We had to email requests for a site to be blocked or allowed, and because these requests affected other schools as well as our own some requests were not granted. Incident turnaround took considerably longer than if we managed it ourselves and what worked one day might not work the next if another school requested it should be blocked."

Key Benefits

- ✓ Complete blocking of anonymous proxies
- ✓ IT management time reduced
- ✓ Increased staff and student productivity
- ✓ Improved e-safety
- ✓ Ease of use
- ✓ High levels of control



Jason Shields, Senior ICT Technician

"We've seen a massive reduction in the attempted use by pupils of proxies to bypass filtering restrictions. This has been the single biggest benefit of us installing the Bloxx Web Filter, helping us to improve e-safety and significantly decreasing risk for the school."

"The speed of deployment, ease of use and breadth of features are fantastic and really free up time to do other things. The appliances we have had have also been very reliable. The Bloxx Web Filter is a huge improvement compared to our previous solution. The control we have and the speed with which we can accomplish tasks is fantastic."

The Solution

In 2007, the School decided to investigate alternative Web filtering solutions, and impressed by the functionality of Bloxx's real-time content classification engine, Tru-View Technology, chose a Bloxx Web Filter for the School.

Rather than rely on a manually maintained URL database or keyword scanning, Bloxx's patent-pending Tru-View Technology analyses the content of a requested Web page in real-time to determine its category. Based on the policy of the user, the requested is either allowed or denied. Since it works in real time, Tru-View Technology also provides best-in-class blocking of anonymous proxy sites, increasing online safety for students and reducing risk for the education establishment.

The Results

The ease of management has had a dramatic effect on both IT management time and the efficiency of the IT operations within the School, as Jason explains: "We have saved time and are now able to provide a fast and efficient service which means staff needs are met very quickly enabling them to complete their work more effectively."

He continues, "The Web filter blocks the vast majority of inappropriate sites and pages without us actually doing anything. On the few occasions when we do need to add a site to the blocked or allowed lists, this happens instantly and is applied school-wide with little fuss or issue. We can now easily create reports on Web use and we use these to monitor sites that pupils are accessing and if we are concerned we can check how 'safe' they are."

The granularity of Policy Management in the Web filter is also beneficial for the School: "Right now we use one policy for staff and another for students, but we can easily apply policies to different groups of staff if we need to. What's particularly important is that all of this can be accomplished quickly and with little fuss." Since installing the Bloxx Web Filter, the staff at the School has increased confidence that students are able to access educationally-rich material while staying safe online, particularly through the effective blocking of anonymous proxy sites.

Jason Shields, Senior ICT Technician

"It has made everyone's lives easier and the whole process runs much more smoothly. We can customise the policies in the Web filter to meet the different need needs of subjects as diverse as Art, PE, RE and technology to name a few. Since we can now be sure that pupils are only accessing relevant content, pupil productivity has also definitely increased as a result of us using the Bloxx Web Filter in school."