



Ashfield School safeguards student learning with Arcserve Appliance



CLIENT PROFILE

INDUSTRY: Education

COMPANY: Two Counties Trust,
Ashfield School

EMPLOYEES: 360

Ashfield School, part of the Two Counties high-performing Multi-Academy Trust, one of the largest single site schools in the UK. Located on the border between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, the school has 2,520 students and 360 staff, and prides itself on its cutting-edge technology.

PROBLEM

In the education sector, an IT outage doesn't just impact continuity of operations, it risks disrupting learning, and could even affect exam results. To reduce the risks of downtime, the school needed a faster, more robust backup solution.

SOLUTION

With Arcserve Appliance, 35 terabytes of data is protected, deduplicated to just 10 terabytes and replicated off site for extra security. Additional trust schools, Selston High School and the Manor Academy, also benefit from local and off-site protection from their own appliances. Incremental backups are taken overnight to ensure systems and data are highly available at all times.

RESULTS

The Arcserve Appliances reduce the risk of downtime or data loss impacting the learning process. Automation and a simple user interface free up the IT team who can spend less time managing backups and focus on more valuable activities. The appliances also facilitate disaster recovery capability should primary systems fail with a recovery time of just minutes.

THE PROBLEM

Protecting school and student data without impacting availability

As part of its mission to be a leading education centre, Ashfield School requires a robust disaster recovery plan. "In the education sector, data loss can impact more than continuity of operations; if exam data or coursework were lost, it could affect our students' grades," explains David Draper, ICT Manager. "In addition, any system downtime could disrupt lessons and put student outcomes at risk."



With 35 terabytes of data to back up, the school's existing backup solution could take five days to complete a backup – which meant that new data was not being protected during this time.

Restoring data and servers was also time-consuming. As David recalls, “We’re part of a Trust of six schools. When one of them fell victim to a ransomware attack that took down all of its systems, we saw how long it took to get them set up again, and decided that we had to look into a faster solution.”

THE SOLUTION On-site backup and data recovery with off-site replication

David evaluated six vendor solutions, before undertaking a proof of concept with Arcserve Appliance 8400.

“The appeal of Arcserve was that we could store data locally, which makes it fast and simple to recover and means we’re not relying on access to the cloud for business continuity,” explains David. “During the two-month proof of concept, we really put the solution through its paces to make sure it was a good fit for us, and the discount Arcserve offers clients in the education sector was a huge benefit as well.”

Ashfield School, along with two other schools in the Trust, implemented Arcserve in January 2018. With help from Arcserve Support Services, the schools deployed and configured the solution quickly and easily.

Once integrated, the Arcserve solution undertook a complete backup of all system data, and now runs incremental backups every night. “With automated incremental backups outside of school hours, we eradicate any risks of impacting system availability while students are learning,” says David.

The 35 terabytes of backup data is deduplicated down to 10 terabytes and replicated between the three Trust schools and to an additional Appliance unit for an added layer of off-site protection.

In the event of server failure, the team can spin up a virtual server in minutes to provide system availability while the fault is being resolved.

THE RESULTS Safeguarding student outcomes

With Arcserve Appliance, Ashfield School has a robust and reliable data backup and recovery plan. “We now have a solution we can set and forget, which has freed up a lot of time for the IT team that we can spend on further improving IT services for our staff and students,” confirms David.

The solution also enables the school to:

- MAKE COST SAVINGS ON DATA STORAGE
- REDUCE RISKS
- PROTECT STUDENT OUTCOMES

“Arcserve is a powerful yet cost-effective solution; we’re really happy with the level of protection it provides and how quickly we can respond in the event of an incident,” says David. “When an outage could put learners at risk, it’s crucial to have technology you can trust. And with Arcserve, we have exactly that.”



For more information on Arcserve, please visit [arcserve.com](https://www.arcserve.com)



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– David Draper, ICT Manager

