



Audenshaw School

Safeguarding students through integrated access control



Situated in the suburbs of East Manchester, Audenshaw School is a traditional, all-boys secondary school with approximately 1,200 students aged 11 to 16. Highlighted by its latest 'Good' OFSTED (Office for Standards in Education) rating, the school continuously looks for innovative ways to provide a safe yet effortless experience for students and staff.

Due to Audenshaw's forward thinking ethos, the school was already equipped with a biometric access control system; however, it had proven to be unreliable. On a mission to find a robust and reliable security system to meet safety requirements, the school engaged Certified Gallagher Channel Partner, Clarion, to replace their current access control solution.

Keeping students and staff safe is paramount for Audenshaw School – therefore they required a security system, and installer, that would help them keep people safe, reduce cyber security risks, and protect assets. They wanted a solution that enabled complete site control from one central management platform, and they wanted that platform to integrate with existing security and building management solutions in place.

"The system had to be easy to use, scalable, and cyber secure," said Steve Morton, IT Manager for Audenshaw school. "We found our current system was lacking and did not meet some of these key requirements."

Firstly, the school needed a security system that enabled rapid evacuation and lockdown. "In the event of an elevated incident, we must be able to lockdown all controlled doors at the push of a button. We also needed a lockdown feature capable of allowing key personnel on site to override the system with their ID card," said Steve.

Gallagher's Command Centre provides this functionality – allowing the school to respond swiftly and accurately during emergency situations.

"The Gallagher system enables us to lockdown individual zones directly via Gallagher's mobile application, Command Centre Mobile," said Steve.

Secondly, Audenshaw wanted their access control system to be linked to managed print services, so pupils can use the same PIN on the access control system, as they do on the school's managed print system.

Thirdly, the school required a system that could integrate with their existing visitor management system, so that staff only had to carry a single card – the single card can be used to access doors and acts as an ID, so no excess cards or fobs are required for users.

“Not only were we able to link our managed print services and integrate our Visitor Management System, but we were also able to integrate our fire alarm system with Command Centre for maximum safety,” said Steve.

Finally, Clarion was asked to replace all hardware and software with a reliable, feature rich system that could grow and adapt in line with future aspirations.

Based on Audenshaw’s requirements, Clarion recommended Gallagher’s integrated access control system, Command Centre, as it met all their immediate needs, along with being scalable and highly flexible to ensure Audenshaw is ready for future growth in student numbers, campus extension, or building upgrades.

“Command Centre is designed to integrate seamlessly with a wide variety of systems and hardware, which ensure that Audenshaw runs smoothly,” says Chris Billinge, Managing Director of Clarion Security Systems.

“Using quality, reliable, and feature rich products from manufacturers such as Gallagher is essential to us at Clarion – it makes our job so much easier and ensures our clients have solutions and products that can be supported for many years to come,” says Chris.

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Chris Billinge - Managing Director of Clarion Security Systems



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