

## Case Study



## Teaching Smart Mesh Networking

**Client:** Hove Park School

**Industry:** Education

**Partner:** Ruckus Wireless

*“We had no existing wireless infrastructure although we had been looking for some time into the technology. For us it was about finding the right product at the right price.”*

Rob Lees,  
IT Manager,  
Hove Park School

### At a glance

#### ● Challenge

With no existing Wireless Infrastructure, Hove Park School required a mixed solution of static and roaming access points (APs). The solution would need to support 1700 pupils and 150 teachers, across 2 sites. The technology also needed to be secure and offer enterprise class wireless connectivity.

#### ● Solution

Seeking the “right technology at the right price”, Hove Park’s IT Department chose Ruckus Wireless over a long list of leading brands due to its robust feature set, greater coverage and its highly competitive price point.

#### ● Results

- A Ruckus ZoneDirector 1000 intelligent controller manages all APs across the School’s 2 sites and across different subnets
- Some of the Ruckus ZoneFlex 7942 APs are statically placed whilst others roam the school having been built into mobile laptop trolleys
- The environment is easy to manage and fully integrated into the School’s existing Active Directory

### Business challenge

With 1700 pupils, 150 teachers and over 300 wireless netbooks to support, implementing a comprehensive wireless solution was a high priority. Not only was Hove Park looking for a wireless solution which would deliver the reliability of a local area network, it also needed to be able to manage two sites from a central point and to conform to the School’s strict security policy. Above all else, the deployed solution had to meet strict budgetary constraints.

Having invested heavily in it’s wired infrastructure, Hove Park School was keen to find a solution which complimented it’s existing equipment. The School wanted an implementation which could accommodate a mixed estate of fixed and roaming access points which would be located on laptop trolleys and be portable across both sites.



*“Overall we have been very satisfied with both Ruckus and ADA. We now feel that we have implemented a wireless solution which will accommodate our requirements both now and in the future.”*

Rob Lees,  
IT Manager,  
Hove Park School

## ADA solution

Having looked at solutions from Meru, Aerohive and Aruba, Hove Park chose Ruckus Wireless for its feature set, security and cost of ownership. With its ability to centrally control multiple sites across different subnets, the Ruckus ZoneDirector 1000 controller was the perfect choice. The solution also delivered:

- **Security** Of primary concern for the IT department at Hove Park, it was important that each user be authenticated through the existing AD server. ADA delivered a solution which provided 802.1X authenticated access for pupils and staff with full integration into the School's existing AD infrastructure
- **Reliability** In the event of the central controller failing, the School's wireless network is still able to operate. This can be achieved because, unlike other solutions, the Ruckus controller unit is used for centralised management. By pushing policies to the APs, Ruckus can continue to operate and deliver a critical service to end users without constant access to the central unit
- **Future Proofing** An important consideration for Hove Park, Ruckus ZoneFlex 7942 APs were chosen as they will accommodate the School's growing requirements over time. ZoneFlex 7942 APs deliver 802.11n wireless capability with up to 300mb/s throughput

## Results

In addition to meeting Hove Park's exacting specifications, the Ruckus solution has far exceeded the School's expectations in several areas:

- The School's future requirement for a 'guest' access zone was delivered from the outset. Although not something that was required at the time of installation, visitors and contractors can now access the internet securely without gaining access to the School's network
- During testing Hove Park found the Ruckus wireless APs performed even better than expected. With a mobile ZoneFlex 7942 AP situated within a closed laptop trolley made of steel, strong signals were still being received 3 classrooms away

## Technical Overview

Ruckus Wireless Solution:

- 1x ZoneDirector 1025, licensed to control up to 25 Access Points
- 16x ZoneFlex 7942 802.11n Access Points

## Next Steps

To find out more about what Ruckus technology can do for your network, visit [www.ada.co.uk](http://www.ada.co.uk) or email [enquiries@ada.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ada.co.uk)



The Ruckus Smart Wireless LAN (WLAN) system is the first enterprise product that delivers a secure, robust and expandable WLAN solution at an unmatched total cost of ownership.



ADA is one of the UK's leading technology services companies with an enviable reputation for technical excellence, reliability and industry-leading standards. We work closely with manufacturers and partners who represent the best in the IT industry to source solutions that offer lasting advantages. Similarly, our consulting and field engineering services are based on an approach that considers your business environment as well as your IT infrastructure, ensuring that your IT delivers real business benefits.