



Founded 1922
HERSCHEL
GIRLS SCHOOL

Education:

Herschel Girls School

OVERVIEW

Founded in 1922, Herschel Girls School is an independent Anglican School in Cape Town that provides an incomparable learning continuum for girls from Pre-Nursery to Grade 12. The school aims to create an environment in which every girl has the opportunity to thrive and in which she is encouraged to cultivate a passion for life.

The school focuses on the spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual well-being of its students. There is a dynamic and caring school community with a comprehensive pastoral programme established through the house system, tutor system, mentor, and peer group systems. The character of the school is built by its people and there is a close-knit atmosphere with ongoing interaction between pupils, staff, parents, the local community and the alumni.

REQUIREMENTS

- Provide WiFi coverage for selected indoor facilities on the school campus.

SOLUTION

- 9 Ruckus ZoneFlex 7341 single-band APs;
- 1 Ruckus ZoneFlex 7982 dual-band indoor AP

BENEFITS

- Reliable wireless coverage of selected indoor facilities on the school campus;
- Additional wireless coverage in additional areas such as the home of the estate manager to enhance on-campus security;
- Easy and cost-effective configuration and installation.

SMART WI-FI FOR A PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMPUS

Herschel Girls School is an independent Anglican school for girls in the Cape Town suburb of Claremont. It provides an incomparable learning continuum for girls from Pre-Nursery school to Grade 12. Herschel focuses on the spiritual, emotional, physical, and intellectual well-being of its staff and pupils.

Currently, the school has more than 1 000 pupils and approximately 200 members of faculty consisting of full-time, part-time and independent staff. There are 16 buildings spanning the Preparatory and Senior school campuses. The buildings range from older ones circa 1920 primarily made out of concrete as well as modern ones constructed of reinforced concrete, steel, and glass.

“Teachers and students have been using their own devices to access the internet at the school for several years. However, to stay at the forefront of educational requirements, we felt that Herschel Girls School would need to invest in the correct infrastructure to provide internet connectivity in the classrooms,” said Stuart Levey, IT Manager at Herschel Girls School.

Ruckus Wireless partner 4th Dimension Technology (4DT) was contracted to install a wireless infrastructure at the school campus. The school wanted to roll out wireless access at selected indoor areas on the Senior and Junior campuses. These included the Atrium, libraries, boarding house and administration offices of the senior and junior sections.

“We undertook not only an in depth site survey, but also performed a comprehensive proof of concept on site by



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IT Manager
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placing Access Points at strategic locations across the campus to determine the wireless coverage given by each unit with a view to providing easy roaming between access points for staff and pupils,” says Ian Harrison, Business Development Manager at 4DT. “This was done to ensure that the client received a solution that not only matched, but exceeded his vision and expectations.”

During the initial roll out, exterior wireless coverage was not a requisite as the school felt that this would be something that could be added at a later phase of the expansion project. “Despite the layout of the buildings presenting a few challenges, the installation went smoothly,” says Michael Fletcher, Sales Director for Ruckus Wireless sub-Saharan Africa. “And the unforeseen benefit of the infrastructure roll out has been that the home of the Estate Manager, situated just outside the grounds, now also has wireless access. This means that the Estate Manager can access the security cameras to provide an additional layer of protection to the campus.”

Approximately three weeks after installation, almost 40% of Senior pupils are using the wireless service. Including teachers who are accessing the network, there are almost 400 devices connected at the school.

“While the wireless network is used primarily for internet access by pupils and staff, it is also used to access files stored on the internal file system and allows the pupils to use network printers,” adds Fletcher. “This means that they can work on their assignments and print them from anywhere on the campus. It also allows staff members to access internal management systems – streamlining processes all round.”

The school will use the wireless access as an important component of its future learning activities. Herschel Girls School believes that the integration of relevant ICT into education is critical to the success of its pupils.

“The Ruckus Wireless solution was not only cost-effective and easy to install and configure, but the central management capabilities and support functionality means we have a great platform for future expansion,” comments Levey.

While the school has only required nine Ruckus ZoneFlex 7341 single-band access points and one Ruckus ZoneFlex 7982 dual-band indoor AP, future upgrades to the network will be occurring in 2013 and an additional ZoneDirector and more access points will be required. It is the objective of Herschel to cover all areas of campus with Wi-Fi access.

