

CHALKWELL HALL JUNIOR SCHOOL CASE STUDY

Learn why Blake Fire & Security Systems have worked with over 200 schools to improve their security in this Junior School Case Study



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BACKSTORY

In 2012, to comply with Ofsted safeguarding regulations and as part of a refurbishment project, Chalkwell Hall Junior School needed to find a security company to install a state of the art access control system.



With 420 pupils, aged 7 to 11 years old, the need to control the flow of excitable children through the building as well as restricting entry to unauthorised individuals was paramount.

With a long track record of successful security installations in schools across Essex, David Sowerbutts, Council Surveyor chose **Blake Fire & Security Systems** for the project.

This case study outlines the project planning and execution and the impact on the subsequent Ofsted rating.



PLAN OF ACTION

To fulfil the project requirements – restrict access and control the flow of the children moving around the building – the new security system required Reception to be able to control:

- Two external entrances to the school grounds
- Internal access to the school from Reception itself.

Once the goal was clear, we split it into individual problems and provided solutions to them:

CHALKWELL SCHOOL'S PROBLEMS

- Controlling entry to the school to keep children safe.
- Allowing the Reception staff to see who is at the main entrance before granting remote access into the school.
- Allowing access to the school once the visitor is in Reception.
- Controlling access from the main entrance.
- Controlling access from the playground.
- Staff access.
- Securing additional six doors from Reception area.

THE SOLUTIONS WE PROVIDED ✓

- A video/audio door entry system.
- A desk mounted monitor with audio handset in Reception, allowing remote access.
- Desk mounted control button to allow visitors to enter or a member of staff to accompany the visitor with a security fob via secured internal door.
- Vandal resistant external audio/visual access panel installed at the main entrance, controlled from the Reception.
- Vandal resistant external audio/visual access panel installed at the playground entrance, controlled from the Reception.
- Security fobs to allow access, with the individual user permissions set by the central Reception computer.
- Access control fob readers for these doors.

PLAN OF ACTION



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The school needed a door entry system that was simple to use, but would integrate with access control.

- Matthew Finch,
Blake Fire & Security
Systems

THE RESULT...

Using an audio and visual access control panel, the finished system allows the Reception staff to communicate with visitors coming to the school's main entrance before granting them access to the Reception area. When the visitors are allowed to enter, they can be vetted a second time before entering the main building.

This enables the Reception staff to have complete control over who comes into the school. To minimise the risk of children leaving the school without permission, the system also had an audio/visual access control panel at the playground entrance to the Reception.

Security fobs allowed all 63 staff to have their own access to the school. These fobs could have individual security clearance for each door, so the business manager could control access for each member of staff accordingly. An additional timing feature allows the fobs to be set so that they only operate within certain hours of the day.

All of the doors are linked to the fire detection system so, in the event of a fire alarm, the locking mechanism releases allowing safe evacuation.

The finished system helped the school to control the flow of children, prevent unauthorised entry and take precise control over their building's access.



WHY PAXTON?

INTELLIGENT ACCESS CONTROL SYSTEMS

To enable the solutions set out in the plan of action, we required a top of the range access control system that was easy to use.

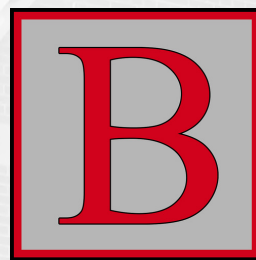
We chose the Net2 Entry System - Paxton's leading networked access control system at the time of installation.



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Net2 Entry is so easy to use. It's useful for Reception staff to be able to see who is trying to enter before letting them in. We have peace of mind that the children are safe, and only authorised people are in the building at all times.

- Trudi Manicom, Business Manager,
Chalkwell Hall Junior School



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As regular installers of Paxton, we were aware of the new Net2 Entry and knew that it easily integrates with Net2. We decided to try it, and it's worked brilliantly!

- Matthew Finch,
Blake Fire & Security Systems

COMPLETE, SECURE CONTROL

The hardware and software for this system linked perfectly. Permissions set on the Paxton software installed on the Reception computer allowed the Paxton control panels to allow access via the controlled doors in two ways:

- Automatically by fob
- On request by Reception approval

This granular control over the permissions of individual users coupled with audio/visual panels provided the school with complete, secure control over access to the building. In this case, control was provided from a central computer but the Paxton Net2 Entry System can also be controlled using smart phones, tablets or VoIP handsets - whichever is preferred.



HOW ACCREDITATIONS PREVENT DISASTER

At Blake Fire & Security Systems, our dedication to accreditation means that we have the highest levels of certification possible.

Our NSI Gold training ensures that our installations are top quality and the schools we work with have the best protection possible.

Installers without this level of accreditation may not have the skills or knowledge to advise you on the security of your building. Advice from unqualified companies or individuals may cost you in the long run!



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All of our surveyors and engineers are qualified and continually assessed by the relevant third party trade associations. If we're not qualified to do it, we don't offer it as a service!

– Ian Blake, MD of Blake Fire & Security Systems



BS 5306 Part 3
Portable Extinguisher
Maintenance
Modular Scheme
SP203 - Part 1
Modular Scheme
SP203 - Part 4



Fire Industry Association



Authorised provider and installer of
PAC access control equipment



HOW ACCREDITATIONS PREVENT DISASTER

CHAS APPROVED

Our CHAS accreditation means that Blake Fire & Security Systems:

1. Have health and safety processes.
2. Meet the legal health and safety requirements.



What this meant for Chalkwell Hall Junior School:

1. The school had complied with their duty of care to ensure the workforce adhere to sufficient health and safety processes.

"You will need to satisfy yourself that the contractor you choose can do the job safely and without risks to health." - Pg 2, HSE guidance on Using Contractors



2. The responsible person can prove the health and safety competence was checked.

NSI GOLD

Our NSI Gold accreditation means that Blake Fire & Security Systems:

1. Are proficient in the installation of security systems.
2. Have excellent quality management processes.



What this meant for Chalkwell Hall Junior School:

1. The responsible person had done everything in their power to ensure children and visitors are safeguarded properly in regard to the access control system (NSI Gold is the highest perceived security accreditation by the Police)

2. Chalkwell Hall Junior School could prove aspects of health & safety, such as controlling the flow of children, had been considered and the installer competent to carry out the job.

HOW ACCREDITATIONS PREVENT DISASTER

In addition to our industry-related accreditations, we also ensured all of our on-site employees were DBS checked.

The Keeping Children Safe in Education Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges states that 'Under no circumstances should a contractor in respect of whom no checks have been obtained be allowed to work unsupervised'. 

Because we install and maintain systems in schools on a regular basis, all of our on-site staff are DBS checked – so you can be assured that our workers are safe.

BENEFITS OF USING AN ACCREDITED COMPANY FOR CHALKWELL HALL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Blake Fire and Security Systems go the extra mile to ensure our services are excellent so that third party risk is minimised, the installations are to a professional quality and the responsible person has fulfilled their duty of care.

THE DANGERS OF USING AN UNACCREDITED COMPANY

A school was fined £2,000 for H&S shortcomings when a building contractor caused himself serious injury on school property. If he had been CHAS certified, this would not have happened because he would have complied with HSE regulations and stayed safe!

Always check that your supplier is competent, or risk similar repercussions for the responsible person.



ACCESS CONTROL & OFSTED

Solving the security problem for Chalkwell Hall Junior School played its part in helping the Ofsted inspectors see that the school was safe.

Although Ofsted is by no means a safety or security authority, their document [Inspecting safeguarding in early years education and skills setting](#) is peppered with health, safety and security references.



Here are a few of them:

"Inspectors should look for evidence that ... children and learners are safeguarded while on the premises" - Section 5.4

"Safeguarding ... relates to broader aspects of care and education, including children's and learners' health and safety, appropriate arrangements to ensure children's and learners' security..." - Section 3.2

"Signs of successful safeguarding arrangements....the physical environment for babies, children and learners is safe and secure and protects them from harm or the risk of harm." - Section 4.18

CHALKWELL SCHOOL'S OFSTED REPORT

Following the installation, in June 2013 Chalkwell Hall Junior School underwent an [Ofsted inspection](#), in which the report says:



- "Governors ensure the school is safe, that it fully meets safeguarding requirements." p.6
- "The behaviour and safety of pupils: are good." p.2

Overall the inspection resulted in Chalkwell Hall Junior School receiving a 'Good' rating.

As an NSI Gold company, with CHAS accreditation and a fully DBS inspected workforce, we can provide the quality service needed to prove schools have taken the necessary steps that both Ofsted and HSE demand for the protection of staff and pupils.



KEEPING YOUR SCHOOL SAFE

Blake Fire & Security Systems have worked with more than 200 schools, offering protection to thousands of staff and pupils. We've designed and installed burglar alarms, fire alarm systems, access control, CCTV, emergency lighting and fire extinguishers.

As part of the Blake Group, we can also cover construction and electrical works – a one stop shop without the project management headache!

These days, school security is an important part of any Ofsted inspection and much more than just a Health and Safety obligation. Use Blake Fire and Security Systems to fully comply with legislation and keep both your pupils and staff safe.

**TO BOOK YOUR FREE SCHOOL SURVEY,
SIMPLY CLICK THE BUTTON BELOW.**

