

Company at a Glance

Christ Church Grammar School

ccgs.wa.edu.au

Established in 1910, Christ Church Grammar School is a pre-kindergarten to year 12 Anglican day and boarding school for boys in Perth, Western Australia. With more than 1,700 students, the preparatory school caters to boys from pre-kindergarten to year 6, and the senior school caters to boys in years 7 to 12. Boys from Years 7 to 12 can attend as day students or boarders. Christ Church Grammar School is renowned for building good men to make a positive difference in their world.

Challenges

- In-house IT team wanted better visibility into full environment and holistic threat detection capabilities
- Lacked 24x7 monitoring, detection, and response across IT environment
- Unable to identify risk points or work toward proactive security goals
- Needed to protect personally identifiable information (PII) and sensitive data of students, parents, faculty, and community members

Results

- Comprehensive visibility into IT environment allowing for better alerting and swift detection of threats
- 24x7 monitoring of endpoint, network, cloud, and identity sources through Arctic Wolf Managed Detection and Response
- Ability to see and contextualize risk and develop action plans for proactive security through Arctic Wolf Managed Risk
- Enhanced security of sensitive data through monitoring and detection solutions alongside continued attack surface hardening measures

Arctic Wolf Protects Student Data While Enhancing School's Security

“Arctic Wolf offers global, well-rounded security. I haven't seen another provider like Arctic Wolf.”

— Geoffrey Alagoda, Director of Information and Learning Technologies,
Christ Church Grammar School

Christ Church Grammar School, an Anglican all-boys school in Perth, Western Australia, has a complex IT environment.

There are over a thousand students, from pre-kindergarten to year 12, plus a large number of faculty and staff, each consistently using school laptops or mobile devices. This intricacy is compounded by the fact that as an educational institution, the school's IT and security teams are responsible for the security of personally identifying information (PII) and other sensitive data belonging to students, staff, parents, and other community members.

In 2023, Director of Information and Learning Technologies Geoffrey Alagoda recognised that the school's environment needed enhanced cybersecurity protections. Alagoda evaluated multiple managed security solutions and monitoring and detection tools, ultimately working with the school's MSP provider to decide on and implement Arctic Wolf, which Alagoda said the school chose for two key reasons: Arctic Wolf is a global company, and as such their intelligence, expertise, and threat detections are enhanced by worldwide data, and Arctic Wolf provides end-to-end security coverage.

“Arctic Wolf covers our endpoints, and their technology ingests our log files and our network data. It's north, south, east, west — everything is covered,” Alagoda stated.

Arctic Wolf® Managed Detection and Response Continuously Monitors Grammar School's Full Environment

A key security consideration of Christ Church Grammar School's IT environment is how dynamic it can be. There are endpoints controlled by students and faculty (and utilised both on and off campus), several web-based applications and subsequent credentials (for email, e-learning platforms, and more), and a trove of PII and other valuable data regarding students, parents, faculties, and others stored within the network.

Arctic Wolf MDR provides 24x7 monitoring of the school's endpoints, network, cloud, and identity sources.



“We know we can sleep fine because someone is monitoring our systems,” Alagoda said of MDR’s capabilities. “If a threat occurs at 2 a.m. and is significant enough, Arctic Wolf will secure the affected systems and then call us in the morning.”

That kind of response is a capability that Alagoda knows would be impossible to replicate in-house between budget, personnel, and training constraints.

“To get experienced security personnel that can look at incidents that have occurred and going so far as isolating and analysing the endpoint would be difficult to create internally,” Alagoda. “Whereas with Arctic Wolf that is their day-in, day-out job, so, why not utilise them?”

Managed Risk Helps School Push Security Goals Forward

The two engineers that work under Alagoda are currently on a quest to update all the software and patch every vulnerability that exists on each endpoint within the school’s network. It’s an extensive project, and one only made possible by the insights provided by Arctic Wolf® Managed Risk.

Arctic Wolf Managed Risk presents and contextualises an organisation’s attack surface coverage across networks, endpoints, and cloud environments, allowing Alagoda’s team to discover, assess, and harden digital risks such as out-of-date software and known, unpatched vulnerabilities.

“Arctic Wolf’s technology goes through our environment and provides various threat levels and then sends it to us,” Alagoda said of the process and the Managed Risk dashboard, which provides a risk score and a comprehensive view of digital assets. “It feels good to know we’re looking through our systems and not missing anything that could be a security risk.”

Human Support Keeps Security Team on Track

Arctic Wolf understands that the human element is key to strong security. Be it reducing the human risk inherent within Christ Church Grammar School’s student population or providing full-time security expertise to support Alagoda and his IT department, robust cybersecurity must include more than just a strong tech stack.

The Arctic Wolf Concierge Security® Team (CST), part of the Arctic Wolf Concierge Experience acts as an extension of Christ Church Grammar School’s IT department, providing continuous tailored guidance and security expertise on-demand to both enhance the school’s security program and respond to threats as they arise.

Alagoda and his engineers meet with the CST quarterly to go over incidents that have occurred and in-progress or future attack surface hardening measures.

“Those meetings are fantastic,” Alagoda stated. “We learn a lot about how Arctic Wolf operates and feel confident that the Arctic Wolf team is managing our environment well and communicating to us what threats exist and the vulnerabilities we have. “The CST gives us a strong sense of confidence in those meetings.”

The proactive element present in those meetings is critical for Alagoda. He stated that while the school is not beholden to any compliance regulations, it is looking to align internal security controls with Essential Eight, a series of cyber risk mitigation strategies designed by the Australian government.

“That goal wouldn’t have been possible prior to working with Arctic Wolf,” Alagoda said.

Arctic Wolf Eases Concerns While Bolstering Cybersecurity

When Alagoda thinks of the impact Arctic Wolf has made on Christ Church Grammar School’s security over the past few years, it’s not just the incidents averted, and measures implemented that come to mind. Instead, it’s a human-based marker for achievement.

Prior to Arctic Wolf, Alagoda was asked, constantly, by council members, parents, and others what the IT and security department was doing to keep the school safe.

Those questions have now stopped.

“Once I explained all the details of Arctic Wolf, all the questioning about cybersecurity has dropped off,” Alagoda said. “Our community is happy that we are being looked after not just by the school but by a bigger, global entity.”

