

WiFi St. Brigid's

From; Ron Maher

Wed 29/11/2017, 18:35

Good evening Máire,

Thank you for the mail to Mark, which has been escalated to me for attention and response,

We note the reported concerns of the parent in the mail, which we understand to be ongoing. Please be assured that we will continue to support you to come to a resolution of this matter.

I propose to offer a response from ITGroup in two parts, hopefully covering the two broad areas of concern of the parent

Dangers of Wifi on the young brain

The concern expressed is such a wide and general one that it would be best to engage with the Department to assist to formulate an appropriate response here. We are however aware that the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment as re-affirmed its conclusion on the acceptable use of wi-fi as a technology

We have received confirmation from Tom Lonergan that the current Digital Strategy for Schools (2015-2020) states that 'the rollout of Wireless networks or wi-fi in schools is a key Government priority' and

that the Department policy with regard to deployment of wi-fi networks in schools, through the framework, has not changed. Whatever concern your parent may have about the use of wi-fi it would, in our view, seem to be personal opinion and with no foundation in any Irish Government or industry specific evidence. In any event ITGroup would not have a role in commenting further other than advising that the school follows the course of action as suggested above.

There was a robust tender process, where accreditation of the various wi-fi technology and technical skill of the pool of manufacturers and their local representatives was evaluated. Fortinet as a technology and ITGroup as an accredited trained partner were deemed an approved vendor and included on the framework document

Wi-fi not been configured properly

To be clear, ITGroup used accredited and Fortinet trained engineers to mount the wi-fi Access Points in the school. We are satisfied that the installation we carried out is in compliance with our framework contract terms. We have also considered the publicly available DES Guidance Document for the provision of wireless network installations, that was issued to schools. This contains guidelines and recommendations for the school to follow and ITGroup confirm that the survey and installation we carried out was compliant, with recommendations given in this document.

Fortinet have confirmed to us that the products we have used in the school are those products that have been used in thousands of other similar installations and are fully compliant to current accepted industry wi-fi standards. The product deployed by ITGroup is CE certified.

ITGroup remain ready and able to answer and address any concerns the school may have regarding our installation. We are happy to meet with the school to discuss our installation and answer any questions that we can, however in advance of any meeting, we would appreciate the specific area of

installation concern or non-compliance regarding installation or configuration of Wi-Fi access points that has been presented to the school by the parent in question.

Regards

Ron Maher
General Manager ITGroup