Top 6 Security Tips For Schools & Colleges

With the protection of pupils, students and staff paramount, access and security across a school or college site can cause head teachers and site managers a really headache.

Often buildings were constructed before security became such an expectation of school management. At the same time, keeping intruders out has to be balanced with safety - especially in the event of a fire. In no way should access gates, security doors and locks hamper evacuation in any way.

We have a long track-record helping schools and colleges (both in the private and state sector) with their security systems and arrangements to enable them to better protect their pupils or students, staff, premises and equipment. Here are our top 6 security tips for schools and colleges from our many years' experience.

If you would like to discuss your site's security issues, please contact Sandy Busek at Absolute Security for a free security review. Tel 01483 791500 or email sandy@absolutesecurity.co.uk

Security tips for schools and colleges

1. **Check** if your school/college gates meet with current European Standards. Following past cases of children getting trapped in automatic gates, there are now safety measures in place.

2. **Focus** on securing the perimeter of your premises at the very least. Walk round your boundaries and identify weak spots where intruders can perpetrate. By securing the perimeter you can enable more free flow within the site. Seek the help of a security specialist to conduct the review.

3. **Ensure** any access measures such as electronic gates, locked doors, intercoms are linked to your fire detection system. You can integrate different systems and in the case of a fire you want to enable a smooth evacuation of the site and ease of access onto the premises for the fire emergency services.

4. **Consider** - To prevent walk-in thefts, consider access control passes and locks for vulnerable rooms – such as IT suites.

5. **CCTV** is a good deterrent to prevent intruders, arsonists and anti-social behaviour. It can link to other security systems you have in place and can be remotely monitored if you lack the staff and resources to do so. You can also run some systems through your existing IP network to minimise the time and money involved in laying extra cabling. HD CCTV is also available and delivers high quality images.

6. **Select carefully** - And finally, when choosing security suppliers ensure they are accredited by professional bodies such as the National Security Inspectorate (NSI). NSI in particular vets its professionals and checks their past history for criminal activity and fraud. The NSI Gold standard is the highest accreditation given by the body and involves ongoing assessments of the security company against stringent best practice performance criteria.