

# Education Buyers Guide

for two-way radios



2023  
NOVEMBER

# QUICK BUYERS GUIDE for two-way radios



You're aware that by implementing two-way radios on-site can provide instant communications, improve site operations, increase safeguarding and enhance the overall effectiveness of day-to-day tasks - but where to start? This guide will help you learn the differences in products, discover the available features across makes and models and show the importance of why instant communications can increase operations and enhance your safeguarding throughout your school.

1

## First things first, understand your needs and requirements.

The first point of call is your premises; we need to understand the **size** of your grounds and the number of buildings – this will help provide insight into the amount of power you may need. For example, a single-story primary school will have a different power requirement than a multi-story and multi-building high school or college.

Secondly, **quantity**? This refers to how many radios you require and how many users. The setup and recommendation of equipment number of users may depend. Imagine 20 people trying to use one channel! Some radios can be coded to assign user groups to reduce the amount of traffic on the main channel – helping you and your team to be more streamlined with your operations.

2

## Then, understand the difference between Licence and Licence-Free equipment, and which is best for you.

The main difference between a licence-free and a licenced radio is the requirement of an Ofcom licence to operate the device. The licence gives you a unique frequency to operate your radios legally and securely, something we recommend for the education sector.

Licence-free radios are often cheaper to purchase than licenced radios as they come ready to use out of the box. However, as they are out-of-the-box ready, anyone can operate on the same frequency, which can mean anyone operating a

licence-free radio, in range, on your channel will be able to listen to your conversations, and vice versa, meaning potential issue for the safety and protection of school pupils and staff.

**Did you know?** At Apex Radio Systems, we apply and renew\* your Ofcom Licence on your behalf? Reduce the additional admin and the renewal pressures – we will handle it. *\*Admin Fees may apply.*

3

## Now, would you prefer Digital or an Analogue Radio?

Traditionally, analogue radios have provided reliable communication between team members, but digital radio has far expanded the capabilities of two-way voice communications. Digital radios provide superior voice quality at the reaches of coverage areas, double the capacity of an existing 12.5 kHz channel and up to 40% longer battery life on a single charge.

4

## Time to consider any Additional Features?

Radios can be purchased with a variety of functions and features. Have you considered whether any of the following would benefit you on your premises?

- Pre-Programmed Text Messages
- Lone Worker
- GPS Tracking
- Emergency Buttons
- Bluetooth
- Group calling

# 5

## Have you considered Hiring your equipment instead of purchasing?

At Apex Radio Systems, we support many industries to hire their equipment, including schools. Two-way radio equipment can have a large price tag, depending on make, model, features, and quantity, whereas you can hire radios from as little as 35p a day\*\*. Hiring the radios annually entitles you to full support, customer care, battery replacements available if applicable, service support and swap-outs for faulty equipment and the ability to add to the fleet if your company were to expand or encounter a busy period.

If you're looking to purchase, why not trial your equipment prior to? We have many options available – contact us to see how we can help you.

\*\*Varies on product and length of hire

# 6

## Don't take our word for it, here's what others in the education sector have to say about two-way radios



Stephen Lackenby  
Facilities Manager

Excelsior Academy



*Two-way radios have been a lifesaver for us at Excelsior Academy. The sheer size of the academy means that they rely on the equipment to allow all staff and the different department groups to communicate effectively."*



David Matthews  
Deputy Head Teacher

Durham Trinity School & Sports College



*"Two-way radios allows us to maintain the level of safeguarding that is required. Our fast-moving facility has many children with complex medical and behaviour needs and by implementing an Apex 500 radio system they are able to continue to meet the needs of their pupils. The ability to communicate and assess situations is a vital requirement, and two-way radios have provided the tools to relocate resources or gain support immediately."*

# 7

Contact us at 0191 228 0466 or [info@apexradio.com](mailto:info@apexradio.com) for a no obligation quotation or arrange a site visit.





SALES • HIRE • SERVICE • REPAIR

# YOUR TWO-WAY RADIO EXPERTS



11 Keel Row  
The Watermark  
Gateshead  
NE11 9SZ



0191 228 0466



info@apexradio.com  
www.apexradio.co.uk

[www.apexradio.co.uk](http://www.apexradio.co.uk)

[info@apexradio.com](mailto:info@apexradio.com)