**Tanglin Trust School** is an international school in Singapore providing British-based learning with an international perspective for students aged three to 18. Established in 1925, Tanglin Trust School runs as a non-profit organisation.

## CUSTOMER-AT-A-GLANCE

**Tanglin Trust School**
Singapore

**Industry**
Education

**Website**
https://www.tts.edu.sg

**Number of Users**
630 employees in Singapore
2,820 students in Singapore

**Sophos Solutions**
Sophos Central
Sophos Intercept X
Advanced for Endpoint
Sophos Intercept X
Advanced for Server

*'Our partnership with Sophos saves us the challenge of researching and analysing cybersecurity threats on our own. Sophos has some of the best people and global resources and provides us with the information and digital security we need, not just from an education or school perspective but also from a Singapore and Asia Pacific perspective.'*

Keith Rutherford, Director of Technology at Tanglin Trust School

## Challenges

‣ The school needs to manage and protect a wide range of computers, laptops and other digital devices from cyberattacks and suspicious online threats for students and staff.

‣ With the move to work and learn from home, the level of security is at a higher risk compared to on campus.

‣ With a strong foundation of cybersecurity in place with Sophos, the school still closely monitors for human error and complacency.

## Company profile

With more than 95 years of experience, Tanglin Trust School is the only school in Singapore to offer both International Baccalaureate and A-Level at Sixth Form. Tanglin provides the English National Curriculum with an international perspective to children from 3 to 18 years and is a vibrant co-educational school. Assessed within the British Schools Overseas framework, all three schools (Infant, Junior and Senior) have been consistently awarded Outstanding, the highest possible grade.

The school educates over 2,800 students with more than 15,000 alumni on record of more than 50 nationalities.

Tanglin Trust School will celebrate its centenary in 2025.

## How do you protect devices when they are not in sight?

With a large student and staff population, Tanglin Trust School must ensure all its digital networks and devices are safe and secure. Employees use a mix of desktop and mobile devices across Microsoft- and Apple-based systems. Additionally, some staff work on campus while some are working remotely in Singapore and other countries, posing some cybersecurity risks.

Students up to year five have access to school-owned devices while those from year six onwards bring their own devices to school. This equates to about 1,300 computers and devices that are synced onto the school's system across 2,400 users.

"We need something extremely flexible that works in multiple environments and gives us a high level of assurance that the data in our systems is all protected," said Keith Rutherford, Director of Technology, Tanglin Trust School.

The COVID-19 situation also posed a huge challenge as the school shifted to remote learning and working. In some cases, students who did not have devices at home or had to share with family members were allowed to borrow devices from the school.

"We had no control over their home network, and we didn't know what protections they had for their routers and modems. We also did not know what sites staff and students who are using own devices were accessing when at home. We were in the unknown in terms of what was happening on those devices," Rutherford recalled. This was a major change from when the campus operated on site where IT staff had full control to manage the school's network, firewall and servers.

Sophos next-generation cybersecurity software ensures a level of protection is in place before devices are hooked into the school's network even if they are off site.

## What do the numbers show?

With detailed monthly reports from Sophos, Tanglin Trust School can keep track of the possible threats that are being prevented. A total of 1,400 digital assets are protected by Sophos and the data showed that more than 120 threats were blocked in one month.

Out of the monthly cases, the majority were malware, where hackers were trying to install software applications from suspicious internet sites, causing malicious damage to the device and system.

Being able to clearly see the number of threats blocked by Sophos reflects the value the school is getting from its investment in digital security. "Having this endpoint protection is the first line of defense for us," Rutherford said.

## How do you avoid human errors?

Even with a top-notch cybersecurity system in place, Tanglin Trust School still experience staff or students falling victim to phishing threats. Thankfully, Sophos software ensures the threats do not get any further than the device itself - ensuring no data is lost and control of the corporate support and teaching systems is maintained.

The school offers cybersecurity awareness by regularly sharing information with staff about phishing attacks, such as the best practices for passwords. For constant reinforcement, the school also conducts phishing exercises where a phishing email is sent to test the user's awareness of and ability to identify a phishing attempt.

Digital security is also built into the students' learning. As part of the technology subject throughout all levels, from infant school upwards, the school arms students with knowledge to protect their digital assets, data, online identity and information.
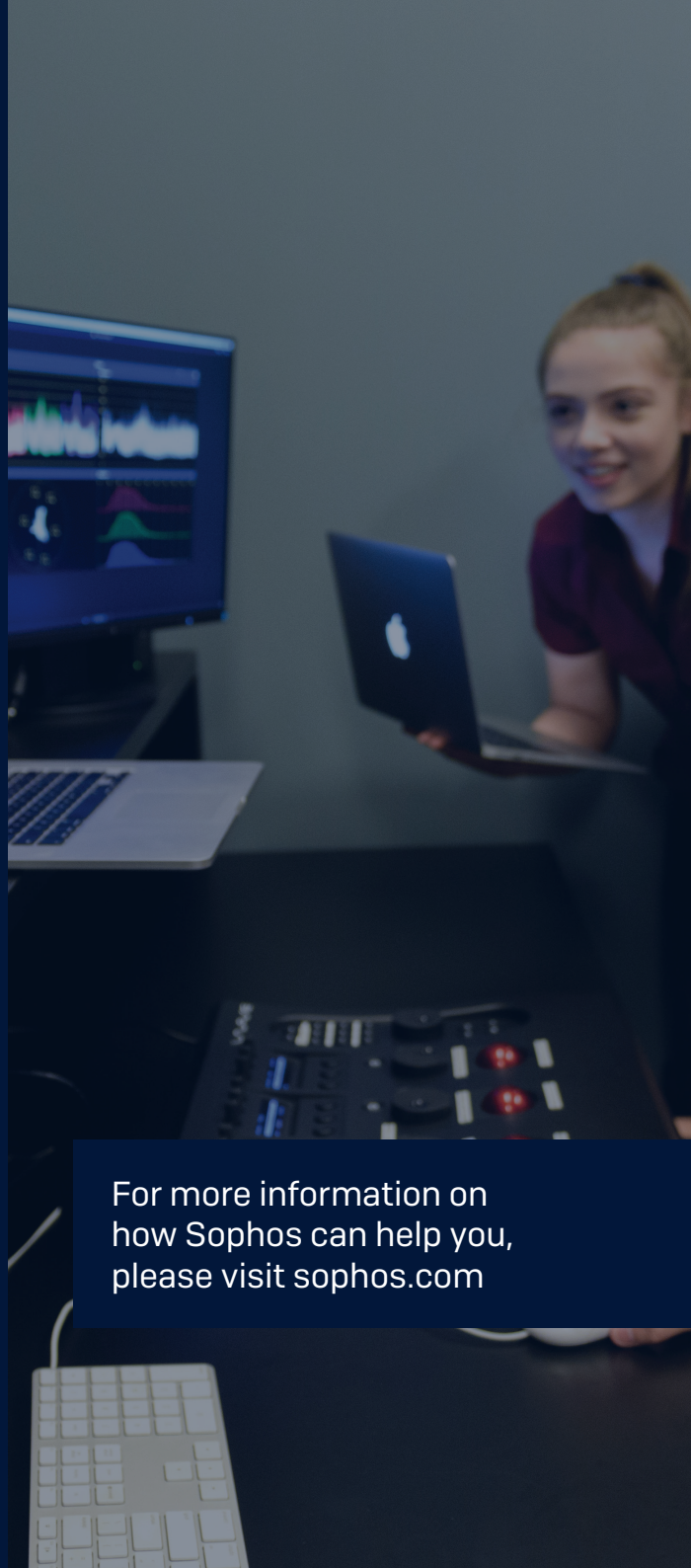
Rutherford finds that students are generally getting more aware of protecting their information and privacy these days, as they are being educated about the issue from a young age. However, the school still relies on Sophos to protect the students as there are instances when possible threats are overlooked.

Tanglin Trust School also uses information provided by Sophos to tailor its cybersecurity awareness efforts and internal training. Rutherford shared, "Sophos provides relevant information, such as details regarding existing and new threats. We take that general information in order to adapt it and share with our staff, students, and our broader community."

## What's next for Tanglin Trust School?

With its existing strong partnership, Tanglin Trust School plans to work more closely with Sophos to identify any potential gaps and weaknesses within the school's digital security systems that Sophos can fill.

"We see Sophos as a key part of our threat protection set-up. We want a good, strong, and close partnership that is beyond the typical vendor-customer dynamic. We want Sophos to feel like they are a part of our school so that together we can protect the school and all the people in it," Rutherford concluded.

For more information on how Sophos can help you, please visit sophos.com

**SOPHOS**