The Collège Épiscopal Saint André school in Colmar (French department 68) has 1472 middle school and high school students, 108 teachers and 42 members of staff. The inadequate and outdated security system needed upgrading to a modern and comprehensive solution to keep the site secure and the school community safe. “We opted for a video security system rather than a video surveillance system. We also wanted to prevent damage to school property and limit violent behavior,” explains Béryl Gondouin, the institution’s registrar.

The installation was carried out by MILEX, who have been a MOBOTIX partner for 6 years and were among the best in France in 2014/2015.

The institution was originally fitted with two analog cameras that did not provide recordings. The hemispheric technology used in MOBOTIX cameras offers a 180° panoramic view, which can replace two to four standard CCTV cameras. MILEX therefore suggested a solution based on where the video surveillance was required. “The MOBOTIX solution has allowed us to secure our main pathways such as gates and corridors leading to classrooms, and to better monitor external visitors coming and going,” Mr. Gondouin explains.

The school wanted a solution that could be integrated with the existing network infrastructure, without overloading it. The MOBOTIX decentralized IP video system, integrated into the camera, does not require a lot of IT resources and is economical and easy to use for automatic video recording: “The process of adding 60 cameras to our computer network was entirely transparent,” says Mr. Gondouin. “Being able to record videos on the camera’s SD card and send them to an NAS system overnight is highly useful for us.” For MILEX, the solution “is easy to manage with training, which is what we provided for the school staff.”

The students were informed about the introduction of the security solution, which Mr. Gondouin confirmed led to “a clear and sharp decline in vandalism,” once the cameras had been installed.

A scalable and adjustable solution
The flexibility of MOBOTIX products has allowed for uses that the school had not initially considered, such as adding an entry code to the T25 or pairing the cameras with external door switches and speakers. “An alarm is triggered toward the exit,” explains Plamen Mihalev, the manager of MILEX.

The optimal camera image quality can be used for identification purposes if required. If a camera senses an impact, it immediately sends an email with a photo of the person who knocked it. Cameras located outside buildings, such as the T25, can also call the concierge or steward on their laptop, in addition to sending an email.

The MOBOTIX application for iOS allows cameras to be viewed and the gate to be opened to welcome future students and their families, which is very useful during school holidays when the Reception desk is closed. “The iPhone or iPad alerts us when there is a visitor at the gate, and we can then open it remotely using the app,” explains Mr. Gondouin.

According to Plamen Mihalev, “the solution is scalable and flexible. MOBOTIX products are very adaptable, the only limit is the user’s and the installer’s imaginations.”

A significant installation
In total, 60 out of 90 cameras have already been installed (i25, c25, Q25, T25, S15 and
M15), as well as MxManagementCenter, MxDisplay+ and the MOBOTIX application for iOS. As the institution consists of five school buildings and one administrative building, the installation was completed in several stages.

During the first phase, completed in the summer of 2015, the T25 and Q25 cameras were installed on the main gate to secure the entrances and exits. Cameras were also installed in a middle school building to start with, including four i25 cameras in the locker room where there had previously been issues with vandalism. Several c25 cameras were built into the suspended ceiling in the corridors and a number of i25 cameras were positioned in the staircases of each building.

During the summer of 2016, full installation was completed in the high school building and a third school building. An S15 and an M15 camera were installed in the areas surrounding the institution.

Thirteen i25 cameras and twenty-three c25 cameras were added to the two remaining school buildings and the administrative building in the summer of 2017.

Cameras were installed in the additional technological college building in 2018.