



Amherst Walkie Talkie Radio Centre

Choosing Walkie Talkies for Use in Schools

We have produced this guide to various factors involved in choosing walkie-talkie radios for use in schools.

“Licensable” and “Licence-Free” Radios – What’s The Difference?

In the UK, use of most walkie-talkie radios requires some type of government licence, issued by Ofcom (the “Office of Communications”).

“Licence-free” walkie-talkies can legally have a lower power output ($\frac{1}{2}$ watt) than “licensable” radios (usually 3, 4 or 5 watts).

So, “licence-free” walkie-talkies will have a lower maximum range and lower signal penetration through walls inside buildings than the “licensable” radios.

Licence-free walkie-talkies are generally cheaper to buy than licensable ones.

License-free walkie-talkies are often referred to as “PMR446” radios. “PMR446” is the name of the legal standard that all license-free radios must comply with. Often the model names of these radios involve the

Licence-free walkie-talkies will often work around smaller school buildings, bigger buildings (or multiple buildings on a school site) may require the more powerful radios to transmit the radio signals all over the site.

A basic Ofcom licence costs only £75, lasts for five years, and you only need one licence per school, not per radio.

If your school buys “licensable” radios from us, and if you want us to do so, we will apply for your licence with Ofcom on your behalf.

Cheap or Expensive? Why Do Some Radios Cost So Much More Than Others?

Generally, what you pay more for is better “build quality” and robustness.

How much you want to spend will depend on how much you have (obviously!) but also on how you plan to use walkie-talkies.

If they are going to be used all day, every day, then you will want something a bit more “heavy duty” than if they are only used for 1 hour a day for lunchtime supervision, say, or if they only get used for fire drills etc.

Also, some of our radios are, to differing degrees, water-resistant or even completely water-proof.

This may be important if they are to be used on the sports field, on school trips, or by a swimming pool etc.

Finally, you may also decide that it makes sense to buy lots of cheap radios for the same budget as fewer top-class ones, in terms of what you get, but also in terms of not being so bothered if one was to get dropped, broken, lost etc.

Our No-obligation “Try Before You Buy” Offer – Lets You Test and Evaluate Radios On-Site!

We know that choosing to buy walkie-talkies for your school involves spending a significant amount of money, which is always tight, and also is often something of “leap into the unknown”.

You may not have ever used walkie-talkies before at all, or certainly never at your current school.

You do not want to buy a set of new radios, only to discover too late that they are not powerful enough to work all over your school site!

So, we are more than happy to send you a pair of several different models from our product range, so that you may test and evaluate them over a couple of weeks.

All that you have to agree to, is to look after our “demo” radios, and to post them back to us afterwards at your cost.

You do not have to buy anything from us. Call us on 020 7328 9792 or email (radios@amherst.co.uk) to arrange your free trial.

Replacing Or Working With Your Existing Radios

If you already have some radios and want to replace them, or if you want to buy some new walkie-talkies and use them with your existing “fleet”, then we can help. Get the make AND the model of your current radios to hand before contacting us, together with any information that you can find about whether your school already has an Ofcom licence.

We can usually match the programming of your current radios (sometimes you may need to send one of them to our office) so any that you get from us will “talk to” your existing radios.

Which Walkie Talkies Do Most Schools Buy?

Over the last ten years, we have supplied a lot of walkie-talkies to thousands of schools, from small primary schools buying 2-6 walkie-talkies, up to large secondary schools with large sites and several buildings, which have bought 50 - 100 or more radios.

The table below describes some of our most popular radios as bought by schools.

Radio	Description
Amherst A66 	<p>The A66 is a remarkable little radio, for a very low price.</p> <p>We have achieved this price by ordering a lot of these, made to order for us, direct from the factory.</p> <p>These radios are “licensable” and have 3 watts power output, making them 6 times as powerful as any of the “licence free” PMR446 radios.</p> <p>They cost £39 + VAT each, dropping to £34 + VAT each for 5+, and to £29 + VAT each for 10+ bought together.</p>
Quansheng TG330 	<p>The Quansheng TG330 is a “mid price range” licensable walkie-talkie that has proven very popular with schools in the last few years.</p> <p>It is a licensable radio with 4 watts power output and is well-built and yet small and light.</p> <p>They cost £79 + VAT each, or £69 + VAT each for 5+ bought together.</p>
Kirisun DP405 	<p>The Kirisun DP405 is a solid digital & analog walkie talkie, the successor to the best-selling Kirisun PT568.</p> <p>It is a licensable radio with 4 watts power output and is built to a high standard.</p> <p>It has an extra-loud speaker, useful in noisy outdoor environments.</p> <p>Six slot multi-chargers are available for £129 + VAT</p> <p>They cost £169 + VAT each, or £159 + VAT each for 5+ bought together.</p>

Helpful Advice Always Available By Phone & Email

We are always happy to discuss your requirements and answer your questions about any of our range of walkie-talkies, or about the use of radios in schools generally.

Call us on 020 7328 9792 or email us at “radios@amherst.co.uk”

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