

Local Risk Area

White Trees independent school



Assessment LARA

Purley Farm, Colne Road, Coggeshall, Colchester, CO6 1TH

See also: safeguarding policy; health and safety policy

Our vision is to provide students with the confidence, skills and ambition to achieve a successful and productive life. We aim to ensure they leave us with the opportunities and are able to become positive members of their communities. To do this, we have 3 principles that underpin our policies, practices and everything we do:

- Everyone can learn, achieve and has the potential to be successful
- Positive relationships are key to success and are underpinned by mutual trust, respect and caring for one another
- We have high expectations in everything we do

Wonderful
Excellent
Lovely
Clever
Outstanding
Magnificent
Enthusiastic

(Acronym created by White Trees pupils)

Review date: March 2024

Reviewed by Governors:

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 Date Created
 April 2025

Head Teacher
 March 2022

Last review
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Created by White Trees Independent School: March 2022

INTRODUCTION – LEGISLATION BACKGROUND

Role of the provider

The school has a well-equipped team to make judgments about local risks, manage challenging behaviour, and keep children safe is an important element. Staff training, support and knowledge is therefore critical to this success. The school building has a fob security system which means in order to gain access and leave the building, you have to have a fob in order to make this happen. This minimises the possibility of pupils absconding or exiting the building without permission.

It is acknowledged that there are limitations of mapping in capturing a 'dynamic picture' but considers that such mapping could play a useful part in the wider assessments of risk. The school location assessment should be kept under review and amended to consider any new risks as these are identified. The annual update will need to be proportionate and will not usually need to be carried out at the level of the initial assessment.

Location assessments will need to address two issues:

1. Safeguarding concerns
2. Accessibility of local services

The school's Leadership Team has a broad understanding of the characteristics of the area where the school is located. The team has an in-depth understanding of potential influences for an already vulnerable child to be a victim of crime, such as being targeted for sexual exploitation;

- Whether there is a likelihood of children placed in the school becoming drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the local area;
- The suitability of the local neighbourhood as a location to care for children who may have already been victims of abuse and neglect; and
- Whether there are environmental factors that would represent a hazard to children, such as locations near busy roads.

Location assessments also consider any positive features in a local community that would offer benefits to children attending White Trees. For example, assessments could include evidence about opportunities for children to participate in leisure, sporting or cultural activities, or links with services that could support the child's ethnic or religious identity or work experience placements in the locality.

Accessibility of local services

White Trees Independent School at the Purley Farm site is located on the outskirts of Coggeshall town, equidistant between the larger towns of Braintree and Colchester. The school site is approximately 1.3 miles walk from the centre of the town. Coggeshall is an affluent town, due to the direct train links from nearby Kelvedon Station to both London and Cambridge. It has become a hot spot for young professionals and families.

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The town has a lot to offer, with an array of shops, clubs, and social activities, Coggleshall/Earls Colne hosts a local sports centre with a gym and an assortment of other fitness facilities.

The nearest train station is approximately 4.9 miles away from White Trees at Kelvedon Station, with direct links to London and Cambridge.



Popular attractions in the area include:

- Boydells Dairy Farm (14 miles)
- Bradwell Waterside, Southminster (30 miles)
- Colchester Zoo (8.6 miles)
- Colchester Castle (12 miles)
- Gosfield Lake Resort (11 miles)
- Great Notley Park (11 miles)
- Hatfield Forest Country Park (CM22 6NH) (23 miles)
- Hedingham Castle (CO9 3AH) (11 miles)
- High Woods Country park (11 miles)
- Markshall Estate and Arboretum (1.7 miles)
- Madison Heights Entertainment centre (bowling etc) (15 miles)
- Natural History Museum (Colchester) (12 miles)

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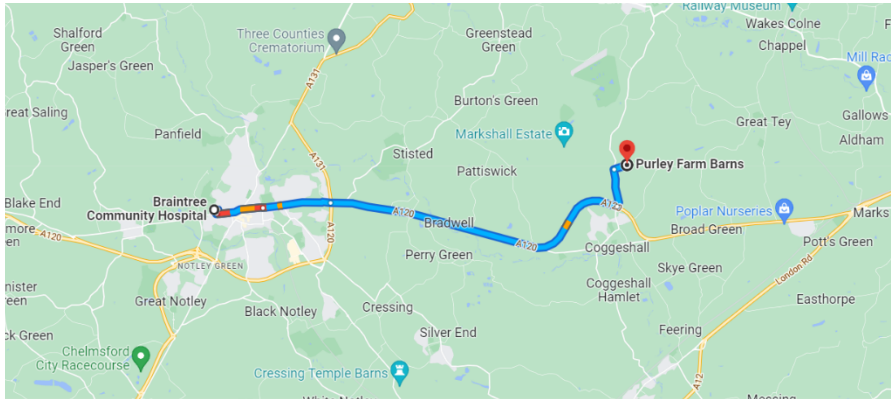
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- Whetmead Nature Reserve (9.2 miles)

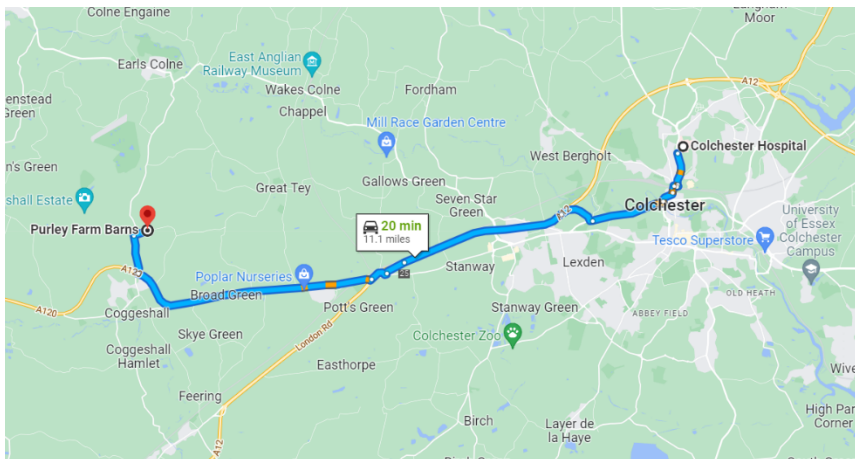
White Trees School is positioned just off Colne Road in Tey Road, on a side country road and very close to the A120 which is a major arterial road. The A120 is a busy commuter road with a high level of traffic. The road has a 60 miles per hour speed limit.

Services located near White Trees School, Purley Farm are:

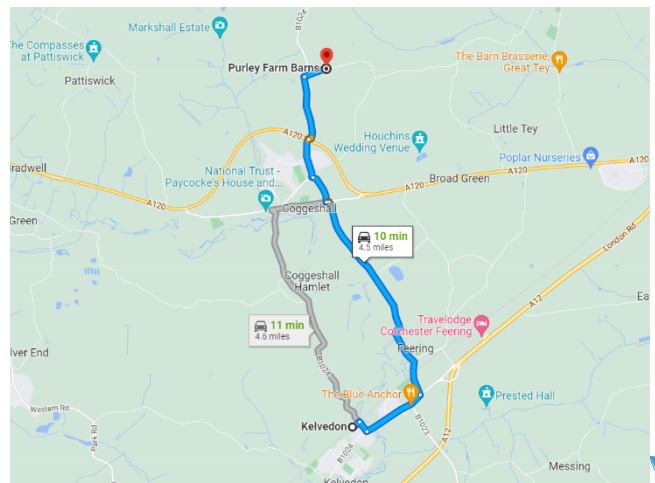
Minor injuries at Braintree Community Hospital - Approx 10 miles



A&E at Colchester General Hospital – Approx 11 miles



Kelvedon train station – Approx 4.5 miles



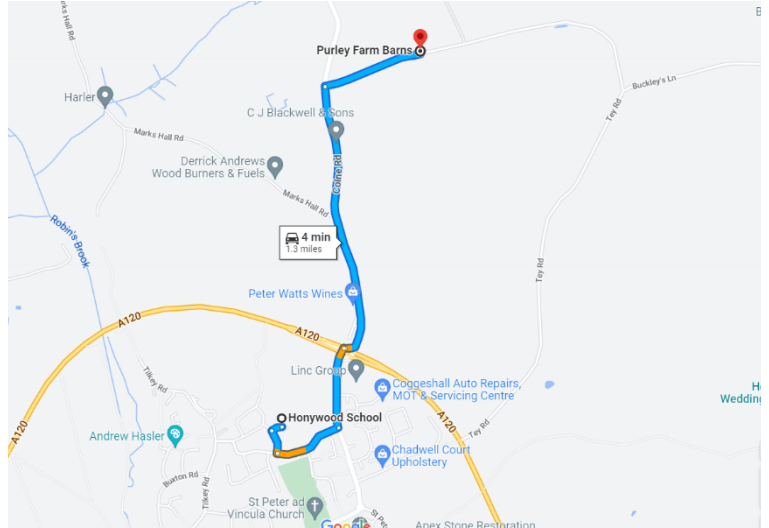
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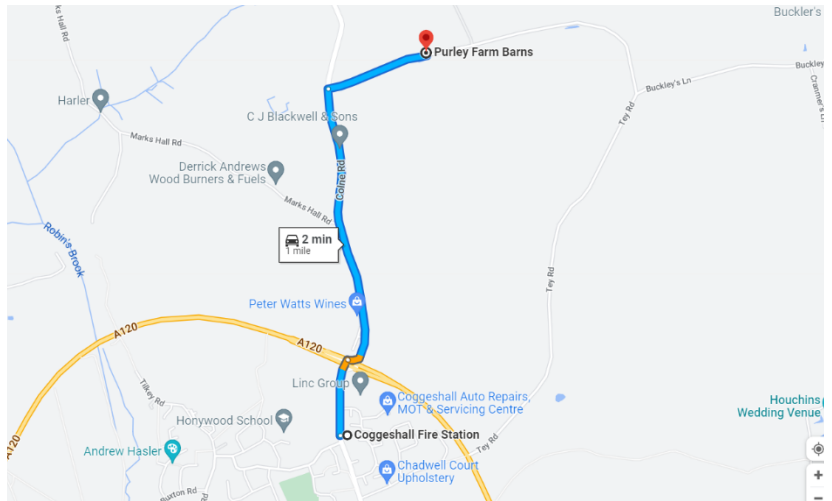
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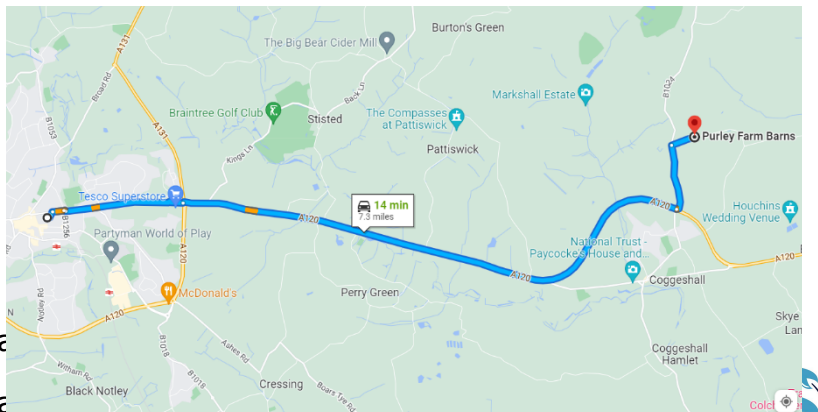
Honywood Community School - Approx 1.3 miles



Coggeshall fire station Approx 1 mile



Braintree Police station Approx 17.2 miles



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Consultation with appropriate local services

White Trees already has links within the local authority to consult about any local issues or individual circumstances with students.

The key links for local services are detailed below and their responses to consultation on the location report.

Local Service	Key Individual and contact details	Feedback for assessment
Safeguarding (including Missing, CSE)	<p>Braintree police station, Blyths Meadow Braintree CM7 3DJ</p> <p>Colchester Police Station, 10 Southway Colchester CO3 3BU</p> <p>101 or online chat with 101 for non-urgent enquiries</p>	If any concerns are raised about a student or about a location the Head Teacher ensures this is passed on where appropriate through the correct channels. A member of the residential service management and the service/homes manager sit on a scheduled meeting.
Crime	As above	
Local Probation / YOT	<p>Mid Essex YOT yot.chelmsford.ecc@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>North Essex YOT Yot.colchester.ecc@essex.gov.uk</p> <p>Phone: 03330 138926 Address: Suite 4, Empire House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford, CM1 1PA</p>	Where Young Person will have a named YOT worker from their funding authority with whom the school will work with to reduce anti-social behaviour.

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

There are no major concerns about the location in which White Trees School, Purley Farm is sited. There are low levels (if any) of crime, and the area is not highlighted by the local neighbourhood team as an area of concern.

There are no concerns of young people being drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the area because of the locality of the school. The school location does not increase the potential for students to be targeted for sexual exploitation, the area in which White Trees is located has not been an area of concern at the local multi-agency CSE, Missing and Trafficking operational groups where information is collated.

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Current areas of identified risk are low to medium risk. The overall risk of the location of the school is assessed as being medium risk due to the nature of the pupils that may be on role and their potential behaviours.

The main identified risk would appear to be pupils absconding from the school. The area is busy but with fairly limited accessible travel links. Therefore, the staff would be vigilant of this behaviour with appropriate staffing ratios, monitoring in place and risk assessments completed for individual pupils attending the school. Although this risk has been minimised with the use of fobbed and an intercom system, where you can only gain access and exit the building and school if you have a fob/code.

A further identifiable risk would be the telegraph pole located within the school premises. The fencing around this will be raised to prevent pupils climbing up it.

Lastly, the oil storage tank located on the school grounds is a potential risk. This is securely fenced in, and a locked gate put on it to minimise the risk.

Drop off / Pick up

Pupils will be dropped off at the main gates to the building, where there will be staff waiting from them (managed by a rota) to safely meet and greet them. They will then be supported and accompanied into the school building and taken to their tutor rooms.

At the end of the day there will be staff members on duty where they will wait out the front of the school for pickup's to arrive. They will provide a brief handover with staff going to collect the pupils from end of day tutor time and walk them to their pickups. Again, this will be managed by a rota and will take place in teams. The school main gates will be closed after the last drop up and reopened when and where required throughout the day by staff, they will just be bolted closed (no padlock) to ensure exit is possible in an emergency.

Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies

Risk Risk factors Risk heightening factors	Risk management strategies Protective factors	Probability of harm occurring (1-3)	Extent of current harm / hazard (1-3)	Overall risk rating (1-9) 1-3 low 3-5 med 6-9 High
Roads Crossing the road may be a risk to young people if they do not cross safely. The road in front of the school is a quiet single lane country road but is a short way from Colne Road which is a busy road used by haulage lorries. Further, it is 0.8 miles from the busy A120	Pupils are competent to cross the road and can go out independently and the road does not pose any additional risk to their day-to-day activities.	1	2	3

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<p>Local Shops</p> <p>Local Shops may be identified as venues where grooming and exploitation can occur. Local shops are also areas where anti-social behaviour can occur. There are no local shops in the immediate vicinity of the school site.</p>	<p>Pupils do not have free time away from school and are accompanied by staff when they are offsite. Pupils to be aware of the appropriate use of language and expected behaviour when out in the community. Staff Supervision will be 1:1 Pupils will receive lessons on keeping themselves safe in the local area and this will include some age-appropriate training and input from local police.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Absconding by train</p>	<p>Kelvedon train station is fairly busy but has no gates and barriers at the entrance/exit points to the station. Any pupil with a history of missing behaviour attending the school will have an individual risk assessment which will include the proximity of the train station to the school. All pupils' behaviour will be managed in line with their own individual risk assessments and management plans. Staff will all be aware of individual pupils' RAs.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>M11/A120 road links</p> <p>Coggeshall gives access to the A120 which leads onto the M11 via Junction 8. This junction is followed immediately by the recently constructed Junction 8A, which provides a free-flow link to the improved A120 that links to Stansted Airport.</p>	<p>The M11 runs approximately 25 miles away from the school and can be reached via the A120. Staff are all aware of the position of the M11 and how it could be accessed by walking in approximately 45 minutes.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

<p>Neighbouring houses The school building is situated between two residential houses.</p>	<p>Pupils do not have free time away from school and are accompanied by staff when they are offsite. Staff are aware of the pupil's whereabouts at all times, including at break and lunchtimes.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Adjacent Farm, fields and buildings Opposite and surrounding the school site are large fields from a working farm and large farm buildings housing vehicles.</p>	<p>Pupils are competent in road safety awareness. Currently this does not add any additional risk to their day-to-day activities. Pupils do not have free time away from school and are accompanied by staff when they are offsite.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Next door building works</p>	<p>The next door neighbours are having work completed to their house – which has machinery at the property. Pupils are supervised at all times, they will not be required to walk near the house, logistics will mean that they are required to travel via car out of the school site. Fences around the school site are secure, with pupils being supervised.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
On-site Risk Assessment				
<p>Cars parked on site</p>	<p>School cars will be parked on site, in the allocated car parking spaces. Any cars coming and going will be planned in the daily logistics (shared with staff in daily handovers and de-brief) including the plans of opening the gates and closing them afterwards, ensuring other pupils are not outside/near the vehicles when they are being moved. All staff cars are parked at a nearby off-site school parking lot, where they carpool into school using</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

<p>Oil tank</p>	<p>Oil tank present on site, fenced in with a padlock so pupils cannot gain access. Pupils will be supervised during breaks and throughout the day. Refilling will take place out of school hours.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Poor outside lighting</p>	<p>Weekly Health & Safety checks to be completed, checking appropriate lighting – in line with Independent School Standards also.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>Uneven surfaces causing trips and falls</p>	<p>Weekly Health & Safety checks to be completed, reporting any concerns using systems in place. Ensuring safeguarding sweeps take place every morning at the site, as well as H & S checks – picking up and reporting any potential hazards/ issues before pupils arrive.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>

This is a working document which will be reviewed annually or as required due to any other areas being identified which are felt to pose a risk which will be added and Risk Assessed as required.

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