



# Local Area Risk Assessment LARA

**13a London Road, Bishops Stortford,  
See also: safeguarding policy; health and safety policy**

Our vision is to provide pupils with the confidence, skills and ambition to achieve a successful and productive life. We aim to ensure they leave the school with a 'new day, new opportunity' ethos and are capable of becoming 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

**W**onderful  
**E**xcellent  
**L**ovely  
**C**lever  
**O**utstanding  
**M**agnificent  
**E**nthusiastic

(Acronym created by White Trees pupils)

Review date: July 2022

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Date Created  
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Head Teacher  
December 2017

Last review  
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Reviewed by Governors, September 2020
Created by White Trees Independent School, July 2019

## 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 is located on the outskirts of Bishops Stortford town, approximately 0.5 miles walk from the centre of town. Bishops Stortford is originally an old market town and has lots to history.

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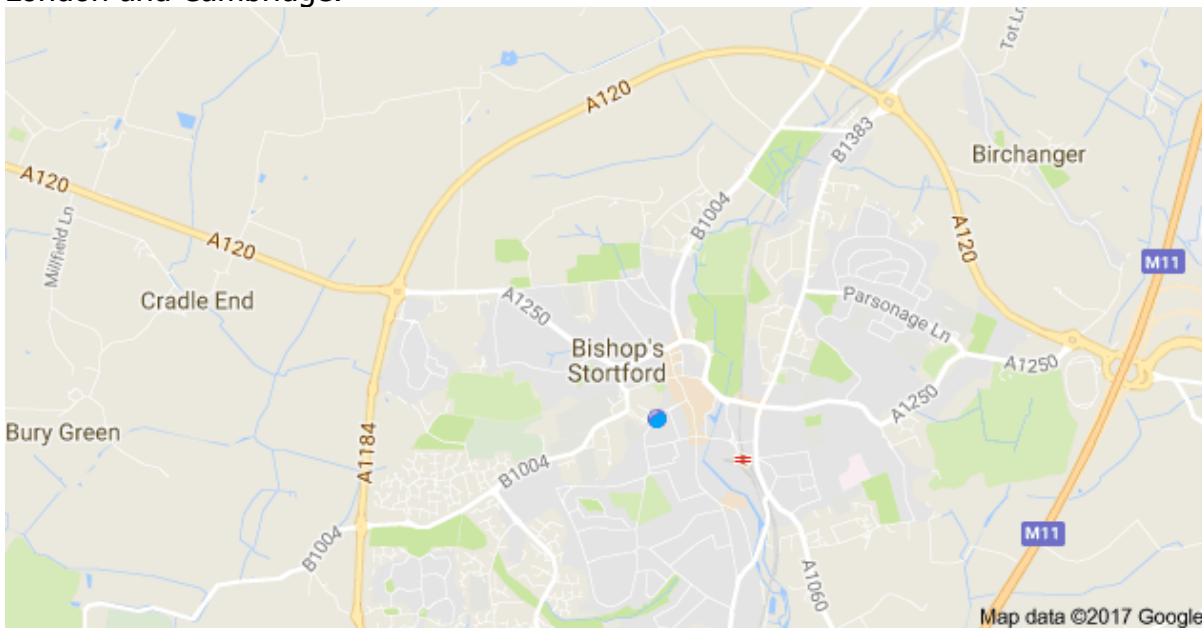
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The town itself is very affluent, due to the direct train links to both London and Cambridge it has become a hot spot for young professionals and families.

The town has a lot to offer, with an array of shops, clubs, and social activities, Bishop's Stortford hosts a local sports centre with a public swimming pool, gym and an assortment of other fitness facilities.

Approximately 0.2 miles walk from White Trees there is a town park, with is approximately 30 acres. The park includes a skate park, Basketball court, an adventure playground, and a young children's play area. There is also a splash pool for children of all ages and a band stand. The field caters for a travelling circus/fairground at certain times of the year.

The local train station is approximately 0.2 miles away from White Trees, with direct links to London and Cambridge.



**Popular attractions in the area include:**

Blake House Craft Centre (CM77 6RA) Approx. 11 miles away

Docwra's Manor Gardens (SG8 6QS) Approx. 13 miles away

Duxford Approx. 10 miles away

Hatfield Forest Country Park (CM22 6NH) Approx. 7 miles away

Hatfield Forest National Nature Reserve (CM22 6NH) Approx. 8 miles away

Hedingham Castle (CO9 3AH) Approx. 15 miles away

Henry Moore Foundation (SG10 6DX) Approx. 11 miles away

Imperial War Museum (Duxford) (CB224QR) Approx. 10 miles away.

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White Trees school is positioned just off London road, on a side road. London road is a busy commuter road with a high level of traffic, however this is often slow-moving due traffic control and pedestrian crossing. The road is situated adjacent to residential housing, shops, and small businesses. London Road also gives access to Warwick Road, both these roads give access to the local secondary school Herts and Essex. Due to this the road is a 20 mile has an hour speed limit. The road is frequently congested, with slow moving traffic. There are major four-way lights at the Hockerill Hill site and pedestrian crossing lights situated at the rear of the Bishop's Stortford train station, by Aldi Supermarket.

### Services located near white trees are:

Herts and Essex minor injuries - Approx 1 mile

Harlow A&E – Approx 1mile

Bishops Stortford train station – Approx 0.2 mile

Herts and Essex high school- approx 0.2 mile

Hockerill college – Approx 0.2 miles

Bishops Stortford fire station Approx 1.5 miles

Bishops Stortford police station Approx 1.2 mile

### 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 is 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)	Bishop's Stortford Basbow Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NA  101  Telephone: 01279 730388 (Hatfield Heath Police Station) for non-urgent enquiries.	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	School visited by 2 Police officers in December 2019 to conduct a presentation on crime/knife crime and drugs. Further visits are to be booked in for the new academic year 2020/2021.

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Local Probation / YOT	Hertfordshire YOT Nick Smith County Hall Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8DP Hertfordshire (Nick Smith) 01992 556324 Hatfield (East Herts YOT) 01707 897 440 Fax01992 556 725 E-mailnick.smith@hertscc.gov.uk	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.
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## SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

There are no major concerns about the location in which White Trees 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.

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 with 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 if you have a fob. The office building next door to the school is a fobbed entrance, however, there is an exit button to exit so staff need to be aware that the pupils can exit that building without a fob.

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## Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies

<b>Risk</b> <b>Risk factors</b> <b>Risk heightening factors</b>	<b>Risk management strategies</b> <b>Protective factors</b>	<b>Probability of harm occurring (1-3)</b>	<b>Extent of current harm / hazard (1-3)</b>	<b>Overall risk rating (1-9)</b> <b>1-3 low</b> <b>3-5 med</b> <b>6-9 High</b>
<b>Roads</b>  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 busy road.	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><b>Local Shops</b></p> <p>CSE, Anti-social behaviour May be identified as venues where grooming and exploitation can occur. Local shops are also areas where anti-social behaviour can occur.</p>	<p>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>	1	2	3
<p><b>Absconding by train</b></p>	<p>Bishops Stortford Train station is a busy, well manned station with gates and barriers at both 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.</p>	1	2	3
<p><b>Local park</b></p>	<p>Staff will all be aware of Although the local park is safe and a fairly quiet environment during the school day staff monitoring will be on a weekly/ daily basis as occasionally there can be events such as festivals and fairs visiting. During these times, the school will be vigilant, additional risk assessments will be drafted or amended to highlight risks associated with these events. A map of the park with entrance and exit points will be held for staff reference.</p>	2	3	5
<p><b>Local park</b></p>	<p>Staff will all be aware of Although the local park is safe and a fairly quiet environment during the school day staff monitoring will be on a weekly/ daily basis as occasionally there can be events such as festivals and fairs visiting. During these times, the school will be vigilant, additional risk assessments will be drafted or amended to highlight risks associated with these events. A map of the park with entrance and exit points will be held for staff reference.</p>	1	1	2

<p><b>The River Stort</b></p> <p>Access points are situated in the town centre and on the outskirts of Bishops Stortford heading towards Sawbridgeworth.</p>	<p>The river its self is quite busy with a well-maintained public foot path adjacent to it. All young people will be spoken to and have understanding on the risks of unsafe behaviour near water ways. Staff will be clear on what to do in event of a pupil falling in the river.</p>	1	3	4
<p><b>M11/A120 road links</b></p> <p>Bishop's Stortford gives access to 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 3.4 miles away from the school and can be reached via Dunmow Rd/A1250.  Staff are all aware of the position of the M11 and how it could be accessed by walking in approximately 45 minutes.</p>	1	1	2
<p><b>Local housing estate</b></p> <p>The school building is situated opposite a small residential estate. The entrance to this is the school MUSTA point in the event of an emergency</p>	<p>To date there are no concerns regarding the residential estate. Staff are aware of pupil's whereabouts at all times.</p>	0	0	0
<p><b>Adjacent Flats car park</b></p> <p>There is a large building of flats with its own car park meaning there are occasionally vehicles using the private road outside the school building as they enter and leave the car park (this is currently still under construction and not open yet) Once open the car park will have sliding electric gates to block access. There is a side gate that can sometimes be left unlocked, allowing pupils to access the car park.</p>	<p>Pupils are competent in road safety awareness and are all aware that cars use the carpark. Currently this does not add any additional risk to their day to day activities. If pupils access the car park through the side gate, staff will accompany them and encourage them away. The car park is quiet and not used frequently.</p>	1	1	2

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<p>Local Shop 'Aldi' A pupil shop lifted from this premises which is approximately 60 seconds walk from the school building. When this was brought to the attention of the shop they did not wish to press charges or for the pupil to pay for the goods that they stole. This shop will now be included on the LARA to ensure staff are aware and vigilant that this shop does not become a target for anti-social behaviour. That pupil has now left White Trees and the security fob system will support pupils not being able to walk out on their own accord – but will remain in the LARA for this</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 location of this shop and the previous incident of shoplifting.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
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**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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