

## Local Area Risk Assessment LARA: Woodlands Site, Gaston Green

**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

**Wonderful**  
**Excellent**  
**Lovely**  
**Clever**  
**Outstanding**  
**Magnificent**  
**Enthusiastic**

(Acronym created by White Trees pupils)

Reviewed by Governors, September 2020

Created by White Trees Independent School, July 2020

**Document owner**

White Trees School

**Last review**

April 2023

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## White Trees School LARA2 **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.

### **ACCESSIBILITY OF LOCAL SERVICES**

The school's second site, known as Woodlands, is the former 'Mission Hall' and is located at Gaston Green, in the village of Little Hallingbury which is approximately 2.8 miles from the main school site in the town of Bishop's Stortford.



and 2.6 miles from the town of Sawbridgeworth.



The building is situated on the A1184 and has a small drop off area to the front with a layby for staff and visitor parking opposite the building.

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Little Hallingbury is a small village and a civil parish in the Uttlesford district of Essex, England.

Little Hallingbury parish is on a high rise of ground and contains the small settlements of Gaston Green, Wright's Green and Mott's Green to the south of Little Hallingbury village. It is bordered at the west by the River Stort over which are the Hertfordshire parishes of Sawbridgeworth and Thorley. The parish of Hatfield Broad Oak borders the east, Hatfield Heath and Sheering the south, and Great Hallingbury the north. The M11 motorway runs north to south through the parish.

## Community

The parish church of St Mary the Virgin on Wright's Green Lane in Wrights Green is a Grade II\* listed church dating to the 12th century, with flint rubble, tile and Roman brick walls, and a 19th-century bell turret with an octagonal spire; the associated Church of England voluntary aided primary school is also on Wright's Green Lane. Little Hallingbury village hall is on the A1060 Lower Street in Wright's Green. Further south on Lower Street beyond the M11 is a site with an equestrian centre and a MOT test centre. The George Inn on Latchmore Bank is the village public house, a Grade II listed timber framed and plastered building dating to at least the 17th century.

Little Hallingbury Cricket Club represents the civil parish of Little Hallingbury, with its home ground at Gaston Green. The club plays in the Herts and Essex League, and fields Saturday, Sunday, mid-week and junior teams.

Little Hallingbury Mill, to the west of Gaston Green, is a Grade II converted watermill, which today is a small hotel and restaurant. The current mill was built in 1874, although there was milling on this site for many years[quantify] before it was converted to a hotel. Although not in commercial use, the mill machinery is in working condition.

Hatfield Forest in neighbouring Hatfield Broad Oak has been a Royal Hunting Forest from the time of the Norman kings. The forest is open to the public and covers 1,049 acres (4 km<sup>2</sup>) of woodland, grassland with trees, lake and marsh. Portingbury Hills in Hatfield Forest is suggested to be a defended settlement or farmstead dated to the Iron Age. According to the National Trust "The main rectangular mound is approximately 100 by 70 feet (30 by 21 m) and is surrounded by a ditch 25 to 35 feet wide, with a flat top."

The nearest train stations are in the towns of Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth both having direct links to London and Cambridge.

## CONSULTATION WITH APPROPRIATE LOCAL SERVICES

White Trees School 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
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Safeguarding (including Missing, CSE)	Hatfield Heath policing neighbourhood, under the Essex Police force area. Hatfield Heath Police Station BASBOW LANE CM23 2NA Bishop's Stortford - Hatfield Heath Hertfordshire England 0845 33 00 222	If any concerns are raised about a pupil 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.
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	Email: BraintreeandUttlesfordCPT@essex.pn .police.uk  Telephone: 01279 730388 (Hatfield Heath Police Station) for non-urgent enquiries. Force Website: <a href="https://www.essex.police.uk">https://www.essex.police.uk</a>	
Crime	As above	School to be visited by Police/other public services prior to new academic year September 2020.
Local Probation / YOT	West Essex YOT Yot.epping@essex.gov.uk  Essex YOT Suite 4, Empire House Victoria Road Chelmsford CM1 1PA yot.essexHQ@essex.gov.uk 03330 138926	Pupils who 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 the additional site is situated. There are very low levels of crime with only 4 being noted in January 2024. The area is not highlighted 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 building's location does not increase the potential for pupils to be targeted for sexual exploitation. The area in which the Mission Hall is located has not been an area of concern at any 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 students that may be on role and their potential behaviours.

The main identified risk would appear to be pupils absconding from the school. However, The area is very

remote and the nearest train line is 1.4 miles away. Staff are 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.

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White Trees School LARA5 **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</b> <b>(1-3)</b>	<b>Extent of current harm / hazard</b> <b>(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. Drop off and pick up of the pupils to and from the school are to be undertaken by the cars pulling into the front of the school – so they do not have to cross the road to gain access to the school.	1	2	3
<b>Local Shops</b>  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.	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.	1	2	3

<b>Abducting by train (Approx. 30 minute walk)</b>	<p>Sawbridgeworth Train station is a busy, well manned station.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>All pupils behaviour will be managed in line with their own individual risk assessments and management plans.</p> <p>during the school day staff monitoring will be on a weekly/ daily basis as occasionally there A local cricket club ground is situated to the left of the school</p>	2	3	5
	<p>approx. 100 metres away. The</p>			

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<b>Local Cricket park</b>	<p>entrance is gated; however, it is only a small gate. The ground has a small club house which is locked when not in use and a large field attached to it. If pupils did abscond to the cricket club, it does mainly consist of a large open green – which has surrounding residential houses next to.</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 Bishop's 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.</p> <p>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 houses</b></p> <p>The school building is situated at the end of the village, where there are residential houses/farm land in the proximity.</p>	<p>To date there are no concerns regarding the residential homes. Staff are aware of pupils' whereabouts at all times.</p>	0	0	0

**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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