

Locality Risk Assessment Policy

Clarity Independent School

Bridge Barn Farm
Woodhill Road
Sandon
CM2 7SG

Clarity Independent School is committed to safeguarding...

"Our school is committed to our whole-school approach to safeguarding, which ensures that keeping children safe is at the heart of everything we do, and underpins all systems, processes and policies...We promote an environment where children and young people feel empowered to raise concerns and report incidents and we work hard in partnership with pupils, parents and caregivers to keep children safe."

Clarity Safeguarding Policy September 2026

Written by Debbie Hanson

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Updated by Name: Debbie Hanson

Locality Risk Assessment Clarity Independent School

Role of the provider

The school has a well-equipped team to make judgments about local risks and manage challenging behaviour. Keeping children safe is the most important element. Staff training, support and knowledge is therefore critical to this success. The school building has a fob security system, to restrict access to and from the building. This minimises the possibility of pupils absconding or exiting the building without permission and uninvited members of the public.

Whilst it is acknowledged that mapping has limitations with regards to capturing a 'dynamic picture', we consider that it does play a useful part in the wider assessment of risk.

The school location assessment will be kept under review and amended to consider any new risks as these are identified.

We will use local ESCB (Essex Safeguarding Children's Board) and Essex Police information from termly briefings to assess the likelihood of children placed in the school becoming drawn into gang crime or anti-social behaviour in the local area. We use this to form our preventative measures. The suitability of the local neighbourhood has been considered carefully, 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 an increased likelihood of becoming a hazard to these children. Examples are, locations near busy roads or areas where members of the public may tend to linger, increasing the risk of the children becoming victims of abuse or exploitation.

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

Accessibility of local services

Clarity Independent School is located in the small village of Sandon, on the outskirts of Chelmsford City. Access from Chelmsford City would usually be by vehicle, as it is approximately 4.2 miles walk from the centre of town. The village of Sandon is very affluent, due to historical houses and convenient links to Chelmsford, where there are excellent shopping facilities, cafes and restaurants. Chelmsford is central to Essex, with the A12



running North East to South West and towards London. There are also direct train links to both London and up into Colchester.

Sandon is a family village, with a local Church of England church at its centre. There is one farm shop approximately 1.5 miles from the school. There is one pub approximately 0.7 miles along Woodhill Road, the route is partially paved and consists of a B road (Woodhill Road) leading to housing along a residential road. The Sandon School (Secondary) is approximately 1 mile down Woodhill Road, Baddow Hall Junior School is 2.0 miles away and Great Baddow High School 2.1 miles away.

Clarity Independent School is located on a previously used farm site, along Woodhill Road, a B road, set back from the road. The school leases a car park owned by a local farmer, which is adjacent to the school building and between the school and the road. It is enclosed by hedges, fencing and partial brick wall. The gate from the school playground, which is only operated by key fob, enters directly onto the car park for the children to access their taxis, escorted by their key worker. There is a driveway from the school gate to the road, approximately 30 meters long.

Woodhill Road is lined by grass verges either side when turning left out of the gate, and for approximately 0.3 miles when turning right, and then has pavements either side of the road as you walk towards the centre of the village, Sandon.

The school is also accessible by bus route 701 from Chelmsford bus station to the Sandon Park and Ride, which is 0.6 miles walk to the school, or via bus route 331 from Chelmsford to Burnham-On-Crouch, exiting the bus stop outside the school on Woodhill Road.

Chelmsford City has a lot to offer, with an array of shops, clubs, and social activities. It hosts a local newly renovated sports centre with a public swimming pool, gym, ice skating rink and an assortment of other fitness facilities. There are 4 main large parks in Chelmsford within 4.5 miles of the school by car, containing (not limited to) a skate park, children's play areas, outdoor gym facilities and acres of natural woods and parkland. The field along Central Park caters for a travelling circus/fairground at certain times of the year and Hylands Park is the venue for the popular Creamfields Festival (the previous location of the V Festival).

Popular attractions to the area include:

Attraction	Distance From School	Description
Danbury Outdoors	1.7 miles	Woodland area and outdoor activity centre.
Hylands House Estate and Park	8.5 miles	Historic site, architectural building, tours and guides, parks, scenic walking areas, woodland
RHS Garden Hyde Hall	4.2 miles	Nature and Wildlife Area, Gardens
Chelmsford City Museum	3.9 miles	Speciality Museum
Chelmsford City Racecourse	11.4 miles	Horse Tracks, events and shows
Chelmsford Cathedral	4.3 miles	Beautiful small Cathedral, steeped in English history
Mace Playce, also Jump Street (now Air Hop)	4.7 miles	Indoor soft play area, indoor trampolining
Essex Police Museum	4.3 miles	Speciality museum
Civic Theatre	4.4 miles	Theatrical performances, pantomimes
Riverside Ice and Leisure	4.3 miles	Sports Complex
Radical Bikes CIC	9.7 miles	Biking trails and obstacle courses for BMX, dirt jumps, ramps, foam pit etc., rides through woods and bridle paths.
Nuclear High Ropes	16.7 miles	Rope trails, climbing, high ropes, zip wire.
Melbourne Athletics Stadium	5.9 miles	Sports complex including full sized running track and athletics facilities
Chelmsford Equestrian Centre	3.8 miles	Horse riding School

Services located near Clarity Independent School are:

Minor injuries, A+E emergency unit, Broomfield Hospital – 8.3 miles

Chelmsford train station – 4.6 miles

Chelmsford fire station – 4.3 miles

Police station – 4.1 miles

Consultation with appropriate local services

Clarity Independent School already has links within the local authority, Essex County Council, 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 Feedback for details assessment

Local Service	Key Individual and Contact Details	Feedback for Assessment
Essex Safeguarding Children's Board (ESCB) (including missing children CSE)	Jo Barclay (Head of Education Safeguarding and Wellbeing) Matthew Lewis (Education, Safeguarding Advisor) schoolscommunication@essex.gov.uk Tel: 0345 603 7627 (general enquiries) Also TAFSO contact: TAFSO@essex.co.uk for early help support and team around the family. Lyn Pipe.	If any concerns are raised about a student or about a location, the school DSL, or Head Teacher, or the DDSL, ensures that this is passed on where appropriate through the correct channels. SLT have a weekly scheduled meeting to discuss concerns and attend the weekly early help drop in sessions online when needing specific advice.
LADO	Rebecca Scott 03330 139 797	Safeguarding concerns about staff
Crime	Karen Calleja PCO 07973 928 539 Ciara Armstrong PC	School Police liaison officers

Attendance compliance team	Liz Newton midattendance@essex.gov.uk , Telephone - 0333 032 2968	Concerns about frequent / long-term absences
SENDOPs Team	Various individual contacts depending on regions of Essex	Regular contact regarding wellbeing of pupils and monitoring their placements

Safeguarding Concerns

There are no major concerns about the location in which Clarity Independent School is sited. There are very low levels 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 and close proximity to another school (The Sandon School). The school location does not increase the potential for students to be targeted for sexual exploitation, the area in which Clarity Independent School 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 low 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, but since the area is quiet, rural and with no close accessible travel links within a short walkable distance, this is made less likely. Furthermore, the road nearest to the end of the driveway from the school is very rural and has grass verges rather than pavement, which gives the impression of a rather more difficult journey towards entertainment and a perception that it is much more difficult to navigate. Additionally, the pupils attending Clarity come here exclusively by SEN transport taxis; therefore, many would not know the way to a local facility.

The staff are vigilant of this absconding possibility and the school is staffed with appropriate staffing ratios, has monitoring in place and risk assessments completed for individual pupils attending the school. This risk has been further minimised with the use of electronic fobs and an intercom system, where access and exit can only be gained to the building by staff in possession of a school fob, or visitors by prior appointment. The classroom at the end of the school does have a fire exit leading onto the car park, with a fob system and an emergency door release which does not require a fob. For this reason, the emergency release button has been situated on the opposite side of the room to the door to further prevent pupils from being able to release the door and abscond. In this way, there is very little opportunity for abscondment.

Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies

Risk factors	Severity of harm (1-2 low, 3 medium, 4-5 high)	Likelihood of harm (1 remote, 2 unlikely, 3 possible, 4 probable, 5 likely)	S X L = Risk Rate (1-2 insignificant, 3-4 minor, 5-10 moderate, 11-16 major, 20-25 severe)	Control Measures (In addition to below, de-escalation strategies and empathic scripts are used and pupils managed according to individual risk assessments and management plans.)	Risk Rate after control measures applied (1-2 insignificant, 3-4 minor, 5-10 moderate, 11-16 major, 20-25 severe)
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 road but the cars travel fast.	5	3	15	Pupils do not have access to the road, they arrive and leave in taxis from the front gate in the car park. They are escorted to and from their taxi by their keyworker and supervised until they reach the inside of the gate.	5 x 1 = 5
Crossing the car park may be a risk if young people do not walk safely, as there are cars. In addition, members of the public enter the car park, sometimes at speed.	5	3	15	When going out on trips, pupils are supervised and reminded about travel and road safety before leaving and praised for safe behaviour around roads and cars.	5 x 1 = 5
Local Shops CSE, Anti-social behaviour may be identified as venues where grooming and exploitation can occur. Local	3	2	6	When taken to local shops in the car, pupils to be reminded of the appropriate use of language and expected behaviour when out in the community.	3 x 1 = 3

shops are also areas where anti-social behaviour can occur. There are no shops within a reasonable walkable distance from the school.				Staff Supervision is 1:2 or 1:1. Pupils receive lessons on keeping themselves safe in the local area and this includes some age-appropriate training and input from local police. Pupils do not have free time away from school and are accompanied by staff when they are offsite.	
Absconding by train Pupils could travel much further if they could reach a train station.	3	2	6	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. The school is located a long way from the train station by foot, hence, it is very difficult for pupils to reach. It is school policy that young people do not bring money / wallets into school, and they hand in their mobile phone on entry to the school, and wallet if attending a trip, so that they do not have the facilities to pay for items or tickets if they were to abscond.	$3 \times 1 = 3$
Local Park	3	3	9	The school is located a long way from the park by foot, hence, it is very	$3 \times 1 = 3$

There can be events such as festivals and fairs visiting, which may distract and attract young people to abscond from school.				difficult for pupils to reach. It is school policy that young people do not bring money / wallets into school, and they hand in their phone upon arrival, and their wallet if attending a trip, so that they do not have the facilities to pay for items from a fair, e.g. food, drinks, sweets or ride tickets if they were to abscond. This is a deterrent.	
Local 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 road but the cars come fast. There are no pavements immediately outside the driveway, so the pupils would need to walk on the grass verges.	5	3	15	Pupils are escorted to and from their taxis, they never walk to the end of the driveway unless completing a local walk. Beforehand, an individual risk assessment is conducted and adjustments made. The walking trip is postponed if the pupil is too heightened to attend safely, or continued without them if no alternative option. There are no interesting places / venues for a pupil to visit alone by foot; therefore, less likely to abscond and traverse a road.	$5 \times 1 = 5$
Local Housing estate The school building is situated approximately 0.5 miles from a small	3	2	6	Control measures above are put into place. To date there are no concerns regarding the residential estate. Staff are always aware of pupil's	$3 \times 1 = 3$

residential estate. This could be a potential place to abscond to.				whereabouts. The young person would have to travel along grass verges to reach the residential area and there are no shops / venues of interest there so little reason to.	
Adjacent warehouse car park There is a large warehouse building across the car park; occasionally vehicles crossing the car park outside the school building. Pupils do not all have good road safety awareness; therefore, may not behave safely if unsupervised. The majority of visitors have used the car park and left by the time students arrive onsite at 9am and do not return until after 3pm, the majority of other users during the day are deliveries or visitors.	5	3	15	Control measures above are put into place regarding supervision, escorting pupils to and from taxis, risk assessing before taking them out on local walks, and travelling to and from school in taxis driving up to the gate. The taxis form a line along the gate so that the young people can walk to the taxis without having to cross the car park, hence reducing the risk further.	5 x 1 = 5



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. Overall responsibility for risk assessing the locality of **Clarity Independent School** rests with the Head Teacher, Debbie Hanson.