



PATRON
HM THE KING



Hassocks

Local Area Risk Assessment Policy

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Next Review due: September 2025

LOCAL AREA RISK ASSESSMENT

Introduction: Legislation and Background

The school has a well-equipped team to make judgments about local risks, manage challenging behaviour, and to keep children safe. Staff training, support and knowledge is therefore critical to this success. The school building has a fob entry security system which means in order to gain access and leave the building, you have to have a fob. 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 the school 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.

The location assessment addresses the following 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;
- 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 LVS Hassocks. 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:

LVS Hassocks is located in the village of Sayers Common, which has a community shop, a park, a pub and some small local businesses. Hickstead Showground is also situated in Sayers Common and at key dates in June and July, when events are hosted there, the volume of traffic in the village increases significantly. The nearest town is Burgess Hill, approximately 10 minutes by car. Burgess Hill has a mainline train station with trains to London and Brighton. Burgess Hill has a number of shops and a large Tesco superstore. There is also a local leisure centre, The Triangle, which is approximately 5 minutes by car, which has a climbing wall, a swimming pool and an assortment of other fitness facilities. Both Crawley and Brighton are approximately 20 minutes drive from the school, with both towns offering a far greater range of shops and facilities.



Popular attractions in the area include:

- Devil's Dyke and South Downs National Park – approximately 8 miles
- Tilgate Park – approximately 10 miles
- Leonardslee Gardens – approximately 5 miles
- Nymans – approximately 7 miles
- Brighton Seafront – approximately 10 miles
- Sussex Prairie Garden – approximately 3 miles

LVS Hassocks is positioned just off London Road, at the end of a drive. London Road is a B road with heavier traffic in the mornings and evenings, but which has quick access to the A23 which is a busy commuter road with a high volume of traffic throughout the day.

Services located near LVS Hassocks are:

- Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath – approximately 8 miles
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton – approximately 12 miles
- Burgess Hill Train Station
- Hassocks Train Station
- Burgess Hill Police Station
- Hurstpierpoint Fire Station

Safeguarding concerns:

There are no major concerns about the location in which LVS Hassocks 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.

Current areas identified 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 students absconding from the school. The A23 is a busy main road and for this reason, the school's admissions Policy states that they are unable to support students who abscond. If a student develops this behaviour, then an in-depth risk assessment is undertaken to ascertain what strategies can be implemented and whether the school remains a suitable placement for the individual student.

Risk Assessment and Risk Management Strategies

Consequence: 1 – Minor; 2 – Moderate; 3 – Major; 4 – Catastrophic

Likelihood: 1- Rare; 2 – Unlikely; 3 – Possible; 4 - Likely

Risk Factors	Potential Impact	Risk Mitigating Factors	Likelihood	Consequence	Overall Risk Rating
Crossing the road may be a risk to students if they do not cross safely	Students or members of the public injured	Students are taught road safety. Students are accompanied by staff	2	3	6
A23 is a busy main road which poses a risk to students if they gain access	Students or members of the public injured. Potential fatal injury	Students who leave site without permission are shadowed/supported by staff. After the first occurrence the student risk assessment is updated. If the behaviour continues despite updated risk assessment and strategies adhered to, the placement will be reviewed	2	4	8
Anti-social behaviour when in the community	Members of the public offended. Damage to property	Students briefed prior to leaving site regarding appropriate use of language and expected behaviour when out in the community. Students supported by staff	1	4	4
Bridle Path which is accessible to the public runs to the north of the school	If gates are open, member of the public may gain access	Access to the site is by fob. Main gates are open for a fixed period during taxi drop off and collection. CCTV covers all access points to the site	1	3	3

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