

Supporting Planning & Heritage Statement

Proposed Enclosed External Garden Area, 1.8 m Timber Fence, Soft Landscaping & Outdoor Activity Space

17 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing BN11 1RY
March 2026

1. Introduction

This statement supports a planning application for the creation of a small, secure external garden and activity area at 17 Liverpool Gardens, including:

- A 1.8 m close-boarded timber fence to enclose a new garden space.
- Evergreen planting, including star jasmine trained on wires, to soften the outward appearance.
- Minor surfacing and layout works.
- Use of part of the car park as a supervised outdoor activity area for KS4 pupils during short, timetabled sessions.

The proposal supports the operational needs of the approved independent school use and has been designed to preserve and enhance the character of the Liverpool Gardens Conservation Area.

The supplied Noise Mitigation Statement confirms that the outdoor activity area has been “*carefully designed... to manage noise effectively*” and that activities are “*structured, supervised, and designed to be low-impact in terms of sound*” (Noise Mitigation Statement).

2. Site Context



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17 Liverpool Gardens is a mid-terrace commercial building within the Liverpool Gardens Conservation Area, characterised by Regency-era architecture, formal landscaping, and a coherent urban grain. The building sits behind the main frontage, with the proposed garden area located in a discreet rear/side position.

A change of use to educational was approved in February 2026 (AWDM/1533/25)

The existing layout is shown on drawing KD.1877_A.100 (Existing Plan), which identifies the current hardstanding car park and the adjacent classrooms and offices.

The surrounding area includes offices, educational uses, and commercial premises. The proposal occupies a small portion of existing hardstanding and does not affect the principal elevation or any historic fabric.

3. Description of the Proposal

The proposal is illustrated in KD.1877_A.101 (Proposed Plan) and includes:

- A 14.2 m² enclosed garden area adjoining the school's internal teaching spaces (KD.1877_A.101).
- A 1.8 m high close-boarded timber fence, with posts and rails internal to reduce visual bulk.
- Star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*) fixed to wires on the outward-facing side of the fence to create a green wall, as shown on the proposed elevations.
- Retention of existing parking spaces and circulation and additional spaces to be marked on the western side.
- No changes to the building's external fabric.

The 1.8 m fence is appropriate as it is necessary for child safeguarding and is not directly fronting the highway

4. Need and Justification

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4.1 Safeguarding and Educational Need

The school requires a secure, enclosed outdoor space for supervised play, sensory regulation, and wellbeing. The uploaded Noise Mitigation Statement explains that activities involve “*structured physical education... sensory regulation... and light outdoor movement sessions*” and are limited to short periods during the school day.

The 1.8 m fence is the accepted safeguarding standard and is essential for controlled access and pupil safety.

4.2 Conservation Area Compatibility

The proposal is modest, located away from key viewpoints, and uses natural materials and planting to preserve the area’s landscaped character. The planting is an evergreen species to maintain year-round softness and to ensure the new fence does not harm the conservation area’s character.

5. Noise and Amenity Considerations

The Noise Mitigation Statement provides a clear assessment of potential impacts:

- Activities occur only in two short daily sessions (10:15–10:45 and 12:30–13:00).
- Only small groups use the space at any time.
- High-noise activities are “*limited and carefully monitored*”.
- Evergreen planting provides a natural acoustic buffer.
- Staff will monitor sound levels and respond to any concerns.

The statement concludes that noise levels will be “*consistent with normal urban school activity and within acceptable limits for daytime operations*” (Noise Mitigation Statement).

This demonstrates compliance with local amenity policies.

6. Planning Policy Compliance

6.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)



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The proposal aligns with NPPF requirements to:

- Preserve or enhance conservation area character.
- Support viable educational uses.
- Balance heritage considerations with public benefits such as safeguarding and wellbeing.

6.2 Worthing Local Plan

Relevant policies include:

- DM12 – Historic Environment: The proposal preserves the conservation area's character through sensitive design and planting.
- DM5 – Quality of the Built Environment: High-quality timber fencing and evergreen planting ensure a positive visual contribution.
- DM14 – Education and Community Facilities: The proposal supports essential outdoor space for an approved school use.

7. Heritage Impact Assessment

7.1 Significance

Liverpool Gardens Conservation Area is valued for its Regency-influenced architecture, formal landscaping, and coherent townscape. The application site is not a key frontage and contributes minimally to public-facing heritage significance.

7.2 Impact

The proposed fence and planting:

- Are located in a discreet rear courtyard.
- Do not affect historic fabric.
- Do not alter key views.
- Introduce greenery that improves an otherwise functional hardstanding area.



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7.3 Level of Harm

The proposal results in no harm to the conservation area.

The introduction of evergreen planting represents a net visual enhancement.

8. Design and Materials

The design is guided by simplicity, quality, and conservation-area sensitivity:

- Close-boarded timber fence, stained in a recessive colour.
- Star jasmine trained on wires to create a green wall (KD.1877_A.101).
- Internal posts and rails to reduce visual bulk.
- Planting positioned externally to soften the public-realm view.
- A compact, efficient layout directly accessed from internal teaching rooms.

This approach is consistent with council expectations for conservation-area fencing.

9. Access

- Pedestrian access is via internal school rooms, ensuring controlled supervision.
- Inclusive access is maintained through level thresholds.
- Vehicle remains unchanged.
- No public routes are affected.

10. Conclusion

The proposed enclosed garden and outdoor activity area at 17 Liverpool Gardens:

- Provides essential safeguarding and wellbeing benefits for pupils.



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- Is modest, discreet, and sensitively designed.
- Uses high-quality materials and evergreen planting to enhance the setting.
- Results in no harm to the Liverpool Gardens Conservation Area.
- Complies fully with the NPPF and Worthing Local Plan.
- Is supported by clear noise-mitigation measures demonstrating minimal amenity impact.

Planning permission is therefore fully justified.

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