

Supporting Statement on Noise Mitigation:

Proposed Outdoor Activity Area, 17 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing

Introduction

This statement addresses potential noise implications arising from the proposed temporary repurposing of a section of the 17 Liverpool Gardens car park into a supervised outdoor activity area for Key Stage 4 (KS4) students. The school is located in central W, and careful consideration has been given to ensure that any potential impact on neighbouring properties is minimised, consistent with local planning guidance and safeguarding requirements.

Nature of Activities and Duration

The proposed activities in the outdoor area will primarily involve:

- Structured physical education and recreational play in small groups (1:2 staff to pupil ratio).
- Sensory regulation activities, social skills development, and light outdoor movement sessions.
- Use of portable, non-intrusive play and learning resources.

Sessions are scheduled to occur during typical school hours (10:15–10:45 and 12:30–13:00) and are short in duration (approximately 30 minutes), thereby limiting continuous noise generation.

Noise Mitigation Measures

1. Screening and Visual/Acoustic Buffering

- Evergreen planting along the front of the fence is proposed to soften the view and provide a natural acoustic buffer, reducing sound propagation to neighbouring properties.
- The temporary activity area will be fully enclosed, with high-quality fencing contributing to noise containment.

2. Activity Management

- Only small groups of pupils will access the space at any one time, reducing cumulative noise levels.
- Activities are structured, supervised, and designed to be low-impact in terms of sound. High-noise activities (e.g., ball games or shouting) will be limited and carefully monitored.

3. Timetabling & Rotation

- Access to the outdoor area is timetabled to avoid overlap of multiple groups and to stagger periods of activity, further controlling potential noise.
- Additional opportunities for outdoor activity are provided off-site (Victoria Park and 58c Revenue Chambers), reducing pressure and duration of on-site use.

4. Monitoring and Review

- Staff will monitor sound levels during each session.
- Any noise complaints or concerns from neighbouring properties will be addressed promptly, with adjustments to activities or scheduling implemented if necessary.

Conclusion

Given the limited duration of use, small group sizes, controlled activity types, and proposed acoustic mitigation, the impact on the surrounding residential and commercial properties is anticipated to be minimal. Noise levels are expected to be consistent with normal urban school activity and within acceptable limits for daytime operations in a Worthing town centre setting.

The use of some the car park for supervised outdoor activities has been carefully designed by school leaders to manage noise effectively. Through a combination of acoustic screening, structured supervision, small group management, and timetabled access, the proposal ensures that the wellbeing and safety of pupils are prioritised while any potential disturbance to neighbouring properties is minimised. This approach demonstrates compliance with local planning policies regarding amenity protection and supports the case for approval of the proposed outdoor activity area.