



THOMAS WILLINGALE SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Headteacher: Miss T. Phillips B.A. (Hons.), PGCE

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We are writing to you in relation to an incident which took place on Wednesday 17 September, involving an individual who entered the grounds of Davenant Foundation School.

We are aware of rumours circulating online and in the community. However, Essex Police issued a statement on this yesterday to clarify the circumstances. This is below in italics for your information.

*"We were alerted to concerns for the welfare of a man in the grounds of Davenant School, in Loughton, this morning, Wednesday 17 September.
On-site staff had seen the man acting unusually in Willingale Park before then entering the school grounds. When he was approached by school staff, who asked him to leave, he complied immediately.*

Officers who had been sent to the school to help then found him nearby and identified that the man was wanted for failing to attend court for alleged offences which had taken place outside of Essex.

He was arrested for failing to attend and we've been in contact with the owning force. The man has subsequently been released on bail.

No criminal offences relating to this incident were reported to Essex Police.

We are aware of speculation online that this individual resides at The Bell Hotel, and we can confirm this is not the case."

Following the incident, there have been reports of schools in the surrounding area being placed in "lockdown" today (Thursday 18 September). It has since been clarified that no school went into lockdown, there were no unauthorised persons on school premises and at no point were children at risk.

We want to take this opportunity to reassure all parents and carers of Thomas Willingale School & Nursery that the safety and wellbeing of students remains ours and the Schools

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highest priority. We continue to work at all times alongside the Local Authority, Essex Police and other partners as necessary. We would assure you that we are welcoming your children to school safely as usual.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Education Directorate
Essex County Council

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