

Our Ref: JPJ/GLT/014

6 September 2023



Changing Lives Learning Trust

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Dear Parents and Carers

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result, areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

Over the summer break a visual inspection was undertaken in accordance with the 'DfE Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete: Lightweight Concrete Roofs' guidance to determine whether action was necessary. The reports have confirmed where visual inspection was undertaken no RAAC has been identified and therefore we have not been asked to close any areas. Early next week, our surveyors are inspecting the very small number of areas which could not be visually inspected over the summer break. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we have contingencies in place.

Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on children and young people is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of children and young people and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Thank you for your understanding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Johnson'.

JONATHAN JOHNSON OBE
Chief Executive

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Abby Deeks'.

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