



September 4th 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete - RAAC

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.

Whelley Site - We wanted to inform you that the Whelley site is not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in this building which was built after RAAC stopped being used in schools and therefore the primary provision will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub.

Hindley Site - The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and 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.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our building and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we have contingencies in place.

The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed. DfE is offering us access to surveyors who are helping us do these checks quickly. Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on learners is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of your child and our staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Wigan generally

This morning we received news from Wigan Council that as of Friday, there had been no notifications about RAAC affecting any Wigan LA maintained school nor any Wigan schools managed by the Liverpool Diocese and Liverpool Archdiocese. They are awaiting confirmation from Manchester, Blackburn and Salford Diocese.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Miss A Isherwood
Headteacher