

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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**Principal: Lorraine Taylor**

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 schools with affected spaces will be vacated.

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. We have engaged with this process, including the completion of the reported questionnaire and DfE condition surveys. 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 buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and to be sure, and are currently working with our surveyors and 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 will have contingencies in place. Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on pupils is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of pupils and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned. The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed.

As you know, Hartshill Academy was chosen as part of the DfE school rebuilding project, and we are due to move into our new building this term. As part of the ongoing maintenance of the current school building there have been a number of checks and surveys of the existing school and no evidence of RAAC has arisen during these.

We will update you on the arrangements of the move into the new building as soon as we are able.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Taylor

Principal