

Dear Parents and Families,

Welcome back to the new academic year and on behalf of all colleagues, we hope that you had a lovely summer.

Last week, 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.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal.

Earlier in the year our Estates Lead completed the required DfE questionnaires and required returns and we have followed all requirements in helping identify the risk of RAAC in any of our schools.

The Department for Education understands 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: [Everything you need to know about the new guidance on RAAC in education settings - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2018/07/26/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/)

I hope that this offers reassurance and I confirm that all schools are open and not at risk of closure.

Kind regards,



Tracey Cleverly

Trust Lead (Chief Executive Officer)

For and on behalf of the Learning Academy Partnership (South West)