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Wednesday 6th September 2023.

Letter regarding RAAC

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.

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. 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.

We would like to share the following statement from Northumberland County Council.

“Northumberland County Council would like to reassure families that our investigations have found no evidence of the presence of RAAC in our maintained schools in Northumberland. Academies are liaising directly with the Department for Education, but we have not been made aware of any instances of RAAC being present in their buildings at this time. All schools are therefore expected to be open as normal at the start of the autumn term. We’d advise parents and carers to check their school websites for further details of arrangements for returning to school.”

If school leaders would like to reassure parents about RAAC you are welcome to use the statement below:

“Northumberland County Council would like to reassure families that our investigations have found no evidence of the presence of RAAC in our maintained schools in Northumberland. Academies are liaising directly with the Department for Education, but we have not been made aware of any instances of RAAC being present in their buildings at this time. All schools are therefore expected to be open as normal at the start of the autumn term. We’d advise parents and carers to check their school websites for further details of arrangements for returning to school.”

Kind regards,

Belinda Athey – Headteacher.

Headteacher: Mrs Belinda Athey



