



**Woodhouse Primary Academy**

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**RE: Update: School premises at Woodhouse Primary Academy**

Dear Parents/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 and because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The 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 within schools will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/04/new-guidance-on-raac-in-education-settings/>

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

As far as we are aware, we do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, due to the age of our buildings here at Woodhouse, we want to take care and to be sure, and as such 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 DfE 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. Our scheduled DfE survey is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on children is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of all our school community is of paramount importance to all concerned and whilst we cannot confirm that there is not RAAC present at Woodhouse Primary Academy, we are doing our utmost most to establish this as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your understanding. Yours sincerely,



Mr Oliver Wilson, Head Teacher, Woodhouse Primary Academy



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