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. 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 will be vacated. The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed.

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as 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, so are currently working with the Local Authority and the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. The DfE is offering us access to surveyors who are helping us do these checks quickly.
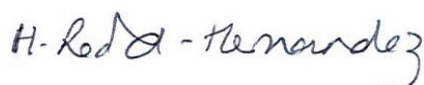
In the event that RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we have contingencies in place. Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on students is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of students and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

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

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.

I hope that this offers some reassurance.

Yours sincerely

Helen Redford-Hernandez
CEO for Brighter Futures Learning
Partnership Trust