

September 2023

Dear families,

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.

On our inspection, it was identified that RAAC is present in parts of our building, and although we have not been asked to close by the DfE, we have immediately closed off these areas as an additional precautionary measure. These are not areas where learning takes place, and as such, your child's education will not be affected by these changes. The school will be open as usual and there will be no impact on learning.

The DfE guidance is evolving, making this an unprecedented and regularly changing picture for schools. To continue to ensure that everyone is safe in school, we have introduced some adjustments to our way of working, as a precaution, while we wait for RAAC concerns to be addressed by the DfE. These include:

Visitors to Reception

Due to the proximity of the RAAC to reception, visitors to the school site cannot use the entrance atrium. If you have an appointment, please access the site as normal and wait outside main reception for staff to meet you. Please whenever possible, call or email the school to reduce demand on the staff at reception. Key email addresses can be found on the school website contact page. Please also be considerate of the capacity of the phone lines, we apologise for possibly taking longer to answer your calls than normal.

Student Meals

The RAAC impacts our catering facilities and so our food offer, from our external catering team at Chartwells, has had to change. We ask wherever possible that students bring a packed lunch to school to maximise their choices.

We appreciate that you may have some questions or concerns too, but please be assured that the safety of our school community is the most important thing to us, and we have taken thorough precautions to ensure that no child or member of staff will be affected negatively because of this.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the school on 0151 228 6800 or email info@dixonsba.com.

Yours sincerely



Rachael Fidler
Principal