

WORK TOGETHER; SUCCEED TOGETHER

Respect | Courage | Pride | Determination | Compassion



**St Mary's
Catholic College**
Wallasey
A Voluntary Aided Academy

1st 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. 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 DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in the Education Hub article published by DfE.

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

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we are currently working with the DfE to actively check all elements of our buildings. If 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 pupils is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of pupils and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed. As we have no confirmed RAAC, the college will open as planned next week.

Yours sincerely

Mr Maddocks

Headteacher

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