HEARTS Academy Trust HEARTS House 2 Mount Road Wickford SS11 8HE

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@HeartsTrust

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Dear parents,

Re: recent media coverage around Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in public buildings.

Many will have seen that there has been recent coverage of the above in the news and online. RAAC is a type of concrete used in some school buildings which is giving cause for concern.

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 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 want to take care and be sure, and are currently working with the DfE/our surveyors to actively check whether RAAC has been used in constructing 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 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.

Any contingency plans will prioritise the continuation of education and ensure that, if RAAC is identified, any impact on pupils, staff, parents and the community is kept to an absolute minimum. Rest assured that the safety of pupils and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have concerns, as always, please discuss them with school or Trust leaders.

Our schools remain open and we look forward to welcoming back pupils at the start of term.

Yours faithfully

Debbie Rogan OBE
CEO and Executive Headteacher

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