



**SOUTH FARNHAM EDUCATIONAL TRUST**  
SOUTH FARNHAM SCHOOL MENIN WAY FARNHAM SURREY GU9 8DY  
CEO: Sir Andrew Carter KBE  
Telephone 01252 716155 Fax 01252 718260  
E-mail: [info.southfarnham@sfet.org.uk](mailto:info.southfarnham@sfet.org.uk) [www.sfet.org.uk](http://www.sfet.org.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

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. 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 want to take care and to be sure, and 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 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.

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

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Andrew Carter, KBE

CEO

South Farnham School | Highfield South Farnham | The Raleigh School | Wallace Fields Infant School  
Busbridge Infant School | Great Bookham School | Brighton Hill Community School | Surrey South Farnham SCITT |  
Teaching School Hub  
South Farnham Educational Trust  
Registered Office: South Farnham School, Menin Way, Farnham, Surrey GU9 8DY  
Company Registration Number 07652902 (England and Wales)

