



The Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust

Learning Communities, Inspired by Faith

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are well and have enjoyed the summer break. Welcome back to the start of a new school year.

You most probably heard the national news headlines yesterday that around 150 schools were told by the Department for Education (DfE) that they cannot open school buildings or parts of buildings due to the issue of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). Recent new cases and new technical evidence have made the DfE less confident that buildings containing RAAC should remain open without extra safety measures in place.

I would like to inform parents that no schools in the Bishop Konstant Catholic Academy Trust have been contacted by the DfE about this issue and have not been asked to close any areas. The most recent surveys carried out in Trust schools indicated that no RAAC was found. Please also be aware that the Trust works closely with accredited building consultants who were commissioned in early 2023 to carry out premises surveys in all Trust schools, and no structural issues were identified in these surveys.

This is obviously a very serious situation and pupils and staff safety must come first. We will therefore be seeking further professional advice regarding all schools in the Trust and following new DfE guidance received yesterday to 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.

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. The safety of pupils and staff remains our priority.

All schools in the Trust will reopen next week as planned.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Fitton
CEO

Chris Slater
Head of Estates & Operations