

# Known & Loved



2 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete which was used in construction projects between the 1950's and 1990's; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability.

The Department for Education (DfE) have this week changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach where RAAC exists. This has led to 156 schools nationally being identified to take remedial measures before the start of the new term. St Joseph's is not one of these schools and has not been contacted by the DfE.

St Joseph's has several buildings of varying ages, however from our surveys and available information we are not aware of any RAAC being present in their construction. The new term will therefore begin as normal.

A general condition survey of St Joseph's was carried out by professional surveyors earlier this year to help us manage the buildings. It did not notify us of any RAAC-materials in the buildings. Over the Summer our in-house team also carried out visual inspections utilising guidance provided by the DfE. Likewise, this did not identify any RAAC containing materials. Given the change in DfE guidance in the last few days we are now working closely with the DfE and professional surveyors where necessary to undertake a more detailed survey to provide further assurance about the findings to date.

St Joseph's and the Trust continue to work hard to provide the very best facilities possible for the children and staff entrusted to our care. As a Trust, we had already commissioned the services of external professional surveyors and are blessed to have our own dedicated in-house team of premise officers at each school and a central estates compliance manager. There are several areas of the St Joseph's site we are prioritising at present for renovation and renewal. We look forward to being able to reveal these in due course.

I hope you have had a wonderful summer break and we look forward to welcoming back to school next week.

My very best wishes for the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "David Carter", written in a cursive style.

David Carter  
CEO, Bosco Catholic Education Trust

