

## The Learning Partnership's Approach to RAAC

As many of you will be aware, reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC), a weak form of concrete used by the construction industry between the 1950s and 1990s, has been identified as a potential health and safety risk within school buildings due to its potential to collapse as it decays.

The Trust has previously undertaken visual inspections of all school buildings within its estate to establish if RAAC was present. These inspections were informed by existing structural and mechanical surveys of all sites completed in 2021 and 2022, existing records of post-1990 building and refurbishment on school sites (none of which work utilised RAAC), and following published DfE technical guidance. During the course of these inspections **no RAAC was identified**.

However, given the potential risks to staff and students involved, this week the trust has commissioned additional professional structural surveys of all buildings with a specific focus on RAAC. These reviews have complemented the visual inspections and existing structural and mechanical surveys undertaken to further ensure the safety of all school buildings within the Trust. During the course of these inspections **no RAAC has been identified within any TLP sites**.

The issues associated with RAAC have triggered broader concerns being raised regarding investment and reinvestment in school sites. At TLP we take the safety of our sites extremely seriously, and recognise the critical importance of ongoing repair, maintenance, and refurbishment of our sites to ensure they remain safe. We have developed our Estates and Facilities Strategy with specific reference to the DfE's Good Estates Management for Schools (GEMS) framework, and focus capital spending in schools on the rectification of health and safety risks before considering any other capital priorities. We will continue this approach, whilst also issuing more routine reports on Estates and Facilities matters to all our stakeholders, to provide assurance that our schools remain safe for pupils, staff, and all other visitors.

Should you have any residual concerns regarding the safety of any TLP sites, please do not hesitate to contact your school or the trust directly. Contact details are available on individual school websites, or via [www.TLPTrust.com](http://www.TLPTrust.com).

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