

4th September 2023

Dear parents/carers

As you may be aware from media reports, the UK Government Department for Education recently published information on managing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in schools.

RAAC is a lightweight form of precast concrete, frequently used in public sector buildings in the UK from the mid-1960s to at least the mid-1980s. It is mainly found in roofs, although occasionally in floors and walls. In some situations, identification of concerns within some elements of RAAC has required building works to be carried out or remedial measures to be put in place.

I would like to provide you with re-assurance on the position in East Lothian and the comprehensive work, in the interests of everyone's health and safety, which we have been doing in relation to this matter.

East Lothian Council had already, following the publication of previous government advice in relation to RAAC, asked engineering specialists to undertake inspections, focused on establishing the extent and condition of RAAC within buildings.

Inspection works confirmed the presence of RAAC in the construction of some, but not all, parts of Preston Lodge High School, Prestonpans. As a result of faults identified in a limited number of areas in which the RAAC is present, it was decided that some parts of the school building would be closed as a precautionary measure, with temporary arrangements in place to maintain learning and teaching such as using alternative accommodation within the school's catchment area for some lessons. Discussions have been taking place around a possible solution and the council will issue full details to staff, parents and pupils as soon as it is able to do so.

Survey work has also established that RAAC is present in the dining hall at Ross High School, Tranent. I would like to re-assure you that the dining hall remains safe to use, as the RAAC material has been assessed as being in a better condition than in affected buildings elsewhere. The condition of the RAAC which is present at Ross High will be closely monitored to establish whether any work might be required in future.

Survey work has confirmed that RAAC is not present in any other East Lothian Council school buildings.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola McDowell
Head of Education