



The Ridgeway, St. Albans, Hertfordshire. AL4 9NX
Telephone: 01727 799560
Email: admin@sandringham.aat.school
Website: www.sandringham.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: **Alan Gray, M.Sc., F.R.S.A.**
Deputy Headteacher: **Caroline Creaby, BA, M.Ed, Ed.D. (MAT)**
Senior Deputy Headteacher: **Mark Nicholls, BA (Hons)**
Acting Deputy Headteacher: **Mark Allday, BSc (Hons)**
Acting Deputy Headteacher: **Kate Mouncey, MA, BSc (Hons)**

Letter No: 075/2023

20th November, 2023

Dear Families,

Re: Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) panels.

I am writing to inform you the school was notified by the Department for Education on 16th November 2023 that, following a survey report from 6th November 2023, RAAC has been identified as present in an area of one of our buildings.

This follows a survey carried out by the DfE and two independent surveys by the school during 2023, to check all the buildings at Sandringham for RAAC.

The area concerned includes four art classrooms and two music classrooms. The art office, the music practice rooms, and the art open area are also affected.

In line with the [published DfE guidance](#), we have immediately vacated these areas for all students, staff and visitors and secured so that no unauthorised access is possible. This area will remain out of bounds until suitable measures have been put in place to address these concerns.

The Department for Education will continue to support Sandringham School to minimise disruption to education and provide capital funding for essential works required to make sure RAAC does not pose any immediate risk. The Department for Education is certain that there is no RAAC present in other buildings at the school, and our own independent surveys support this.

We have re-allocated classes to other classrooms for the next two weeks as a temporary measure, to allow for a full structural examination and report on how to move forward with making the building safe. If this becomes a longer-term issue, then we will work with the DfE to find the best solution to minimise disruption to learning in these two faculties.

The concrete material identified at Sandringham exhibits a 'RAAC like' aerated structure and therefore has been considered RAAC. The inspection has found that it appears to be a harder version of RAAC than reported in other schools and public buildings, however we want to ensure there is no risk to this roofing structure

I would like to thank the staff for working so quickly to make alternative arrangements and to the students for being so accommodating.

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact the school and we will do our best to answer them. I will update you as soon as we have more information on the way forward.

Yours sincerely

Alan Gray
Headteacher

