

# POLEHAMPTON CE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS

Polehampton CE Infant School  
Hermitage Drive, Twyford RG10 9HS  
0118 934 0246

Polehampton CE Junior School  
Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford RG10 9AX  
0118 934 1138



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Executive Headteacher  
Mr P Sherwood

Heads of School  
Mrs L Castell and Mrs H Medcalf

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11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## UPDATE ON RAAC IN SCHOOLS

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and, as a result, areas in affected spaces will be vacated.

The DfE has been helping education settings and responsible bodies (such as local authorities and multi-academy trusts) to identify and manage the potential risks of RAAC since 2018. You can find more in [the Education Hub article published by DfE](#). The change in guidance is precautionary in nature, and only affects education premises where the presence of RAAC has been confirmed.

We appreciate the concern this may raise, and we will always prioritise the safety of your children and our staff.

We do not have any confirmed RAAC in our buildings and have not been asked to close any areas. However, we want to take care and, to be sure, we are currently working with the central team at The Keys Academy Trust and the DfE to actively check whether RAAC has been used in the construction of any part of our buildings. This is for the junior school specifically – it is not believe that there is any RAAC in our infant site. If RAAC is identified, we will let you know straight away, and we will have contingencies in place. 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. Rest assured that the safety of pupils and staff is of paramount importance to all concerned.

Thank you for your understanding, and we will update you as soon as we have more information. In the meantime, please do not worry unduly – we have no current concerns regarding the strength and integrity of our buildings.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Sherwood', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mr Phil Sherwood**  
Executive Headteacher

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**"Let Your Light Shine" (Matthew 5:16)**

Gratitude - Friendship - Perseverance - Forgiveness - Honesty - Compassion