

Our Ref: RH/KR/
Your Ref:
Contact:
Tel: 01236 632100
E-mail: NLHawthornR@northlan.org.uk
Date: 6.9.23



Education and Families

Rhona Hawthorn
Head Teacher
Ravenswood Primary School
Tiree Road
Cumbernauld
G67 1NR
www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all well and that your child is settling into the new term.

Given recent events reported in the media and elsewhere, I am writing to let you know that North Lanarkshire Council has been carrying out surveys across all schools and buildings to determine if a building material called reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) is present.

The council instructed these surveys - carried by an independent external structural engineer - following updated guidance by the Institute of Structural Engineers earlier this year.

Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) is a lightweight construction material that was used in the construction of some public buildings between the 1950s and 1990s. It was used mostly in flat roofing, but also in some pitched roofs, floors and walls.

It was quicker to produce, easier to install, and cheaper than standard concrete. Despite its name, it is very different to traditional concrete. It is aerated, or 'bubbly', and is therefore less durable than traditional concrete.

A survey was carried out by the council last year into the use of RAAC in two areas of Ravenswood Primary School. Remedial action **has already been taken** to ensure safety. This has included the installation of permanent steel supports and other measures as appropriate in November last year and April of this year. The structural engineers have advised us that there are **no immediate safety concerns** and regular surveys will continue in the meantime.

The council routinely operate a schedule of survey work across the whole school estate and carries out any necessary works; this work is no different.

It may be the case that further permanent works are considered appropriate and, if this is the case, it is likely they will take place during summer 2024. However, it is important to stress that the measures that have already been taken have ensured the safety of the building for pupils and staff.

The council has set up a page on its website about RAAC and it can be accessed here:

www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/RAAC

Many thanks for your ongoing support of the school.

Mrs Rhona Hawthorn
Head teacher



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2021

LIVE
LEARN
WORK
INVEST
VISIT

