



Press Statement

18 August 2023

School temporarily relocates over concrete concerns

There has been a problem around some schools and public buildings built 1950s to 1980s using a form of lightweight concrete known technically as Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) that is beginning to show signs of deterioration in some cases. All schools are being inspected for this concrete and at Corpus Christi, RAAC was located in the roof of part of the school on the junior site. To minimise any risk to pupils and staff, the school has decided after taking professional advice that it is necessary to relocate from the Trent Road site to minimise disruption from the necessary structural work that must be undertaken in the next few months. The school is working closely with the Archdiocese of Southwark, Lambeth Local Authority and Department for Education to engage specialist engineers to advise on resolving the issue.

Mrs J Connery & Mr R Coyle - Co-Headteachers at the school said:

'During this process we have looked at several different options, our priorities were as follow:

- *Ensuring the safety and education for all our children*
- *Ensuring the continuation of face to face teaching and learning*
- *Ensuring all our junior children could be accommodated on one site where possible.*
- *Ensuring the school day can run as smoothly as possible.*
- *Ensuring the extended day offer is minimally impacted where possible.*

Not all the options available to us were able to deliver on the above by the beginning of term. We are therefore extremely grateful to Lambeth Local Authority and to the board of St Martin In The Field Girls School who are willing to accommodate us on a temporary basis within two self-contained blocks where we will have our own pedestrianised entrance on Trinity Rise.'

Staff at school are planning to relocate as soon as possible so that there is a welcoming start to the beginning of term but as always, the school prioritises the safety and education of the children first. It is a challenge to all in the school community, but the school has welcomed the support it has received.

Notes:

1. Corpus Christi Catholic School, Trent Road, London, SW2 5BL

Co-Headteachers: Mrs Jean Connery and Mr Robert Coyle

Business Manager Mrs S Ruiz

2. Corpus Christi Catholic School is a single school primary academy for 420 pupils, 3-11 year old. www.corpuschristischool.co.uk
3. The school is situated in the Archdiocese of Southwark and Lambeth Local Authority
4. The Department for Education have specialists teams supporting schools with this issue and action is being taken on the advice of specialist engineers.
5. RAAC - Reinforced Autoclavable Aerated Concrete is a form of concrete used from 1950-1980 in many public buildings and it no longer meets building standards

If you have any queries, please email sruiz@corpus-christi.org.uk.