



30th June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Building Fire Safety Update

Further to my letter of last week and my subsequent double checking of what I had absolutely understood to be our new building's full compliance with fire regulations, including cladding, I am pleased to confirm that the building and all materials are fully compliant.

Contractors must ensure compliance with Building Regulations through the development of a Fire Strategy which forms part of the design of the school. Technical Advisers review all Fire Strategies within Contractor Proposals on behalf of the ESFA, and implementation of the requirements is monitored regularly during construction by the Independent Certifier, Building Control Officer and the Technical Advisers. In short, this building and associated materials meets all requirements.

Hertfordshire County Council have also been in touch this week, as all public buildings across the UK review their construction composition. They note that only if schools have blocks of 4 storeys or more and/or residential accommodation are any further questions over external cladding or construction being sought at this stage. Regardless, we have double checked and can confirm as above.

Hertfordshire go on to note that in terms of fire risks in schools, the following should be remembered:

- There are very different risks associated with a high rise block with residential sleeping risks and a school environment
- The scrutiny in terms of increased external fire loading is rightly on higher risk (multi storey) buildings and those with residential roles
- The majority of schools have short distances of travel and many exit doors direct to fresh air. Termly fire drills are routinely carried out to test this response and should be able to evidence prompt evacuation times and effective response of occupants
- The make-up of external panels is a contributory factor but will not significantly alter the risk to our occupants in normal school use

In our case, we know that our building is fully compliant, has a sprinkler system, a full suite of fire doors, and that our planned fire drills reflect the fact that we can evacuate the building in full in a very short period of time. It is of course the case that our routine monitoring, risk assessments and fire drills will continue as part of our ongoing health and safety emphasis.

Yours faithfully

Alison J Garner
Principal