

To all parents and
carers of children at
Giles Brook School

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Our Ref: DG/gf

Your Ref:

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Dear Parent or Carer

I write on behalf of Milton Keynes Council and the governors to give you an update on the situation at Giles Brook School.

You will be aware that Milton Keynes Council commissioned both the Timber Research and Development Agency (TRADA) and the Buildings Research Establishment (BRE) to advise on work that would be necessary to restore confidence in the school building. In addition, the BRE was commissioned to oversee and sign off any remedial building works that need to be undertaken.

On Friday, officers of the council, a number of governors and the headteacher met the senior consultant from the BRE to hear his preliminary findings on the audit of the building. The meeting was also attended by the Project Manager, appointed by the council to coordinate and manage remedial work, and Councillor Euan Henderson, the Deputy Leader of the Council.

The senior representative from the BRE stressed that he still requires more information from the designers of the school building (Allwoods and Gleasons) and from TRADA to enable him to conclude his findings. However, he was able to clarify that there are a number of building issues requiring attention. Remedial work to rectify matters will commence when the BRE finalises its report and a project plan will then be drawn up and shared with governors.

The Council's appointed project manager is liaising with the BRE and QMP who have been appointed to design the remedial work, and the appointed contractors, Jet Construction. He will make sure that necessary work is carried out in a co-ordinated fashion and to the appropriate standard. The governors will be provided with weekly updates on progress against the project plan and timeline, once they are drawn up.

The extent of the repairs already known about mean that the main buildings will not become available this school year, and it is highly likely that remedial work will continue into the autumn term.

I know that this will be a disappointment to parents, staff and children. However, governors have agreed that we must ensure that all building matters are dealt with effectively before the main building is re-occupied.

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Clearly this means that the children will continue to be taught in the temporary classrooms for some time. We know that there have been some unforeseen problems with electrical power supply from the generator and a temperamental alarm system.

We recently arranged for the installation of a back-up generator, which automatically takes over should the main generator stop working. We now intend to go further to virtually eliminate the risk of power failure to the temporary classrooms. Within six to twelve weeks the classrooms will be connected to mains power and the school will then enjoy the same reliability as domestic electricity users.

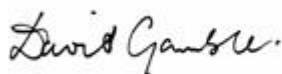
I and other senior officers are working with the headteacher and are meeting the school staff shortly to discuss the implications of continued work in the temporary classrooms. Through the professional work of the school's dedicated staff and the cooperation of your children, day-to-day teaching and learning remain of a high standard, but it is recognised that conditions are different from those of a single building. The council intends to support the school in addressing issues raised by staff so that they are enabled to continue to deliver the high quality of education and care which characterises Giles Brook School.

The Council would like to extend its gratitude to you and your children for the perseverance you have shown during the last few months.

We are now very close to identifying fully what needs to be done with the school building to bring it up to an appropriate standard. We can assure you that no corners will be cut in addressing the issues raised by the BRE. When this is done your children will be able to return to a building in which you can have full confidence.

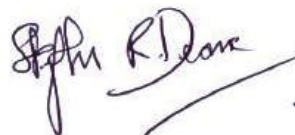
I, the Chair of Governors, Stephen Deane, and the Chair Elect of Governors, John Laverick, will keep parents updated as the remedial work progresses.

Yours sincerely



David Gamble

Group Director School Improvement
and Planning



Stephen Deane

Chair of Governors