

BY EMAIL

18 September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Lath and plaster ceilings

You may be aware of recent press reports of schools having problems with what are known as lath and plaster ceilings.

Lath and plaster ceilings were in common use until the late 1920s. It began being phased out in 1930 but could have been used up until 1950. Such ceilings have been identified, in some instances, as potentially coming to the end of their practical lifespan.

Due to the age of your child's school building we have asked staff to undertake a visual inspection of all ceilings and to report any issues to us. Any issues raised will, of course, be dealt with immediately.

To fully ensure safety in the medium to longer term we have contracted a specialist survey company to fully survey ceilings in schools with buildings older than 1930. As a precaution we are covering up to 1950 for any buildings where clear information isn't available. We will then be able to plan a replacement schedule of all such ceilings in the medium to long term, again taking action where any short-term issues are identified.

We hope this information is helpful and sets your mind at rest. Any questions should be raised with your school in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Oliver Burwood
Chief Executive Officer, DNEAT



Mr Darren Williams
Head of Estates, DoNESC