

18 July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

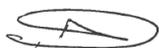
We are writing to you following the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower, to reassure you about the safety of all of the children and young people whilst they are at school here in The GORSE Academies Trust. There has been much in the media about the cladding used on Grenfell and the government is ensuring that checks are underway nationally to identify other buildings which may be at risk.

We want you to know what is happening here in the Trust to check the safety of our academies, and to answer some of the questions that have been asked so far. The Trust have been working closely with the Department for Education, Local Authority and Trust contractors to understand any risks, and have been following advice given by these agencies to ensure our fire safety measures are up to date.

In every Academy in the Trust, regular fire evacuation drills are conducted, and in all cases everyone will be evacuated quickly from the building at the first indication of a fire. For all Academies this takes a matter of only a few minutes. For academies that have cladding, we are currently checking what type of cladding they may have, and the appropriateness of their fire stopping measures. This will be completed shortly, and information so far has indicated those buildings are not at risk.

Where building work has taken place over the last ten years we are checking the type of cladding used and whether the fire stopping measures are appropriate for the building. However as a precautionary measure we have checked all Academies to make sure that their fire safety procedures are current, while we carry out our checks. All member of staff are trained in fire awareness and are fire wardens, all academy fire risk assessments have been reviewed, all fire alarms are checked weekly and all academies have or will have completed termly fire evacuation drills over the academic year.

Our thoughts are with those affected by the Grenfell tragedy, and we are taking all appropriate actions to ensure your children remain safe.



Alan Marshall
Director of Health and Safety
The GORSE Academies Trust