

Children's Services
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Dear Parent

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 Leeds. 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 Leeds to check the safety of our schools, and to answer some of the questions that have been asked so far. The council have been working closely with the Fire Service to understand any risks, and we have written out to the head teacher and chair of governors of every school and academy with advice about making sure their fire safety measures are up to date.

In every school building in Leeds, the school regularly conducts fire evacuation drills, and in all cases everyone will be evacuated quickly from the building at the first indication of a fire. For many schools this takes a matter of only a few minutes. Only a handful of our secondary schools have 4 or more storeys. We are currently prioritising those few schools to check what type of cladding they may have, and the appropriateness of their fire stopping measures. This will be completed this week, 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. For schools where no work has taken place we are also looking into those who do have cladding and checking this alongside other measures. However as a precautionary measure we are asking all schools to make sure that their fire safety procedures are refreshed, while we carry out our checks.

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



Stephen Walker
Director of Children's Services



Councillor Lisa Mulherin
Lead Executive Member for Children and Families