



Meersbrook Bank Primary School

Derbyshire Lane, Sheffield, S8 9EH

Tel: 0114 2814423

enquiries@meersbrookbank.sheffield.sch.uk

meersbrookbank.sheffield.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs G. Harvey

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

In line with statutory duties, Sheffield City Council has a responsibility to check for and monitor levels of radon gas present in its buildings, including schools, where we are responsible for statutory maintenance.

Where levels of radon are found to be above actionable limits, the Council is also required to install mitigating measures to reduce the levels of radon and ensure there is no risk of harm to any persons using or accessing the buildings – both staff and pupils.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas formed by the decay over many years of rocks and soil. Many areas of the country are classed as Radon Affected Areas, and this includes the whole of Sheffield, given its geology. Radon can permeate buildings naturally through the sub-soil and can accumulate if buildings are not adequately ventilated or extraction techniques not used. Many new buildings now install radon membranes to stop the accumulation of radon.

Radon is the largest component of natural background radiation in this country. The current actionable level for mitigation to be considered is currently at 300bqs, which has been reduced from its previous level of 400bqs. As a result of monitoring radon levels, the Council have been in touch to inform us that a radon level at the threshold limit of 300 becquerel per m³ (bqs) has been identified within the school. This level has been recorded in the office and requires us to take action to mitigate.

Therefore, I am writing to you to inform you of some work that will be undertaken in the near future to address this, and to provide reassurance of yours and your child's safety despite this work being needed.

“ We always work with the UK Health Security Agency and the Health and Safety Executive, and all our decisions and actions are fully in line with best practice and guidance. ”

Monitoring and mitigating radon in schools is an ongoing process this is true of many other authorities across the country who have schools in radon-affected areas. The Council works with the UK Health Security Agency and the Health and Safety Executive, and all our decisions and actions are fully in line with best practice and guidance.

Having assessed the risks involved (which data from the UK Health Security Agency shows to be minimal), the Council has decided to install extraction techniques in order to control the levels of radon accumulation within the school office. The equipment installed will disperse the radon gas into the atmosphere where it will dissipate naturally and harmlessly. We will then continue to monitor levels to ensure the radon levels continue to remain reduced.

We are satisfied that, having undertaken readings across the school, there is not a wider issue. Nor do the levels of radon detected provide reason for concern for individuals' health or safety. Whilst levels are recorded in a single room on the actionable threshold, this is not a room that is occupied permanently throughout the day.



The constant movement of people in and out will bring with it ventilation and air flow, thus dissipating the levels within the room. But as further mitigation is required, so the above equipment will be installed and monitored.

Sheffield City Council, together with the school, its Governing Board and the UK Health Security Agency, would like to assure you there is no need for anybody to be concerned about the levels of radon monitored within this school, or about the extraction process.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs G. Harvey

On Behalf of Sheffield City Council