



2018-05 27 POSoS

**Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP**  
Secretary of State

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Mary Creagh MP  
Chair of the Environmental Audit Committee  
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*De Mary,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 May 2019, on behalf of the Environmental Audit Committee, about the action taken by Kensington Aldridge Academy (KAA) in relation to the environment following the Grenfell Tower fire.

The school's governing body has been acutely aware of the need to confirm and reassure parents, pupils and staff the school is a safe environment. This was critical to the decision to return to its permanent site in September 2018 and also of concerns that have from time to time emerged within the local community since the fire.

KAA has continued to take its own professional and expert advice, and remains in very close contact with the independent Site Management team, to help it offer that reassurance. Our understanding is that the testing described is part of that important reassurance exercise.

We believe that KAA has acted prudently and has had as its top priority the health, safety and well-being of the school community. Reports commissioned by KAA are the property of the academy trust; copies can be obtained directly from them. The school's website does however have all the reports relating to the soil and air testing and these can be accessed at <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/kaa1-faqs/>.

We have addressed the specific queries raised in your letter below. The school playground was replaced to remove the areas damaged by the fire. Because of the nature of the materials this required all of the playground surface to be replaced. The playground also has a number of planters across it and the topsoil in these was likewise replaced. Debris from the fire was clearly visible in the planters and hence they were cleaned and refreshed.

Details of the soil testing and air quality monitoring are provided from the school website. As you know, KAA undertook their own testing to reassure parents when considering a return to their permanent site from their temporary

site. Public Health England is likewise undertaking its own monitoring.

The welfare of the pupils is paramount to KAA and there is extensive support being offered to pupils and their families, working alongside the NHS. Details of this support package can likewise be found on the website.

Belfor was appointed by the school insurers, Zurich, to undertake the deep clean of the academy. We are not aware of a report being produced post clean, but as part of the air testing programme samples have been taken within the building as well as around the site. No samples taken have given cause for concern.

Thank you for writing on this important matter.

*Your ever*

*Damian*

**Damian Hinds**  
**Secretary of State for Education**