



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Joanna Averley
Chief Planner

**Department for Levelling
Up, Housing and
Communities**

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2 Marsham Street
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By email only

Dear Chief Planning Officer,

School buildings requiring closure and temporary onsite replacement due to confirmed reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC).

You may have seen recent press coverage and announcements regarding a change of approach from the Department of Education (DfE) to mitigating the known risks of RAAC in educational settings, including schools. There is longstanding guidance from the Institute of Structural Engineers

([https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-\(raac\)-inve/](https://www.istructe.org/resources/guidance/reinforced-autoclaved-aerated-concrete-(raac)-inve/)) to support building owners to identify, assess, and take remedial measures on RAAC if they are needed to make a building safe. Building on this advice, the DfE has issued new guidance for use in schools and education settings which can be viewed at: [Reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete: guidance for responsible bodies and education settings with confirmed RAAC](#).

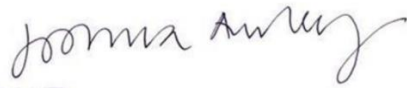
Schools around the country may therefore be required to close buildings at short notice. Where this is the case DfE will contact the relevant Local Planning Authority to discuss planning requirements. To minimise any time that children spend out of school, it may be necessary to site temporary accommodation, such as classrooms on school grounds while permanent buildings are worked upon or rebuilt.

Due to the urgent nature of these works we encourage local planning authorities to take a pragmatic approach in these cases to find solutions that minimise any disruption to education, including the need for concurrent/retrospective applications, where unavoidable.

There are also a number of permitted development rights that may be useful for schools and local planning authorities. Part 7 Class M of the General Permitted Development Order allows for the erection of school buildings on existing school sites, subject to certain parameters. Part 4 Class C allows for the use of any building and any land within its curtilage as a state-funded school for 2 academic years. Part 4 Class CA allows for the provision of temporary school buildings on vacant commercial land for up to 3 academic years.

I look forward to your ongoing cooperation on these matters.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joanna Averley', written in a cursive style.

**Joanna Averley
Chief Planner**