

County Council Members

My Ref: JP / TK 146

Your Ref:

Date: 11 September 2023

Dear Colleague

Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in Staffordshire Schools

I am sure you are aware of the situation about RAAC use in school buildings that has emerged as the new academic year begins. Last week, the Department for Education (DfE) changed the guidance relating to schools with RAAC to 'closure'.

There are 405 schools in Staffordshire, of which 126 continue to be maintained by Staffordshire County Council. We were already in the process of assessing these schools for RAAC and had completed a desk top review of all our 126 maintained schools and undertaken some physical inspections. We had planned to complete the investigation work within six months. We now have 61 schools needing further investigation. With the recent change of approach by the DfE we have accelerated the programme, and these sites will be surveyed prior to the October half term. Some follow up investigations may be necessary where intrusive investigation by drilling is required, where necessary this will follow shortly after the initial survey.

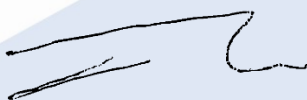
So far, we have not been advised by the DfE that any maintained schools in Staffordshire are included in the list of those schools nationally that will have to close owing to the use of RAAC in their construction.

Please be assured the safety of pupils and school staff is our top priority, and we have also written to our 278 Academy schools offering advice and support.

If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We will of course keep you abreast of any further developments.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Price
Cabinet Member for Education (and SEND)