

Is my child's school building safe?

Parents' checklist for your next school visit

Tick only what you saw yourself. Leave the rest as Not sure. You are noticing and asking, not inspecting.

School: _____ Class: _____ Date of visit: _____ Parent: _____

No.	What I saw or was told	Yes	No	Not sure
THE BUILDING				
1	No visible cracks in classroom walls, ceilings or beams, especially long, wide or new-looking ones.	☐	☐	☐
2	Ceilings and walls dry: no damp patches, dripping, peeling plaster or seepage marks (check after rain).	☐	☐	☐
3	No rusted steel showing through concrete, and no pieces of plaster or concrete fallen on the floor.	☐	☐	☐
4	Ceilings and floors look level, with no sagging or bulging.	☐	☐	☐
5	No new floor, room, water tank or heavy storage being added above classrooms while school runs.	☐	☐	☐
6	Terrace, balcony and open stairwell railings or parapets are firm; children go up only with a teacher.	☐	☐	☐
WAYS OUT				
7	More than one way down from the classroom floor; bigger classrooms have two doors.	☐	☐	☐
8	Stairs, corridors and gates clear of benches, bags, cartons and cycles; stairs sturdy with a handrail.	☐	☐	☐
9	No exit door or gate locked or chained while children are inside.	☐	☐	☐
FIRE AND ELECTRICAL				
10	Fire extinguishers visible, not blocked, with a recent date tag; an alarm or loud bell on each floor.	☐	☐	☐
11	Wiring, switchboards and meter boxes tidy: no loose or hanging wires, open boards or scorch marks.	☐	☐	☐
DRILLS AND PEOPLE				
12	A fire or evacuation drill held in the last six months, and a teacher can say when.	☐	☐	☐
13	Exit plan displayed on each floor or in classrooms; a marked assembly point outside.	☐	☐	☐
14	First-aid box and emergency numbers (112, 101, 108) displayed; staff can say who calls and who leads each class out.	☐	☐	☐
CLASSROOMS				
15	Classrooms not so packed that children could not reach the door without climbing over benches.	☐	☐	☐
PAPERS				
16	School can show its structural-stability certificate and building permission or occupancy certificate.	☐	☐	☐
17	School can show its fire NOC or fire-safety certificate, or say why none is required.	☐	☐	☐
18	School can give the date of its last safety audit (structure, fire, electrical) and say if repairs were done.	☐	☐	☐

Orange edge = a row to take up first if you tick No.

Child uses a school bus or van? Also ask whether its fitness certificate is valid, the school's helpline number is shown on it and a staff member travels along to help children board and get off.

What your ticks may mean

Any orange row ticked No

Meet the principal the same day, then send the letter.

Five or more rows ticked No

Send the letter and raise it at the PTA or School Management Committee.

One to four No, or four or more Not sure

Ask about those rows, and send the letter.

No row ticked No, and few Not sure

Good to know, but not a clearance. Look again after each monsoon.

This checklist is not a structural audit, and it never says that a building is safe or unsafe. Only a qualified civil or structural engineer can judge a building's strength, and the fire service can judge fire safety. What you can do is notice, ask and put your questions in writing.