



St John Bosco Catholic Primary School, Sunderland School Building Closure / Temporary Arrangements Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

As you will be aware, our school has had to close unexpectedly. The situation is evolving rapidly, and we are working at speed to provide alternative solutions.

What is the building material and why is it an issue?

The building material is RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete). RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete. Historic RAAC panel failures have included collapses of whole roof structures, occurring suddenly with very little warning. Whilst this hasn't happened at St. John Bosco, the decision to temporarily close the school has been issued with the safety of children and staff in mind.

Is this just happening to St. John Bosco Primary School?

Parents may have also seen reports in the media that nationally, public buildings such as schools and hospitals that contain RAAC, are being reviewed at present. More than 150 schools in England have been identified as having type this type of potentially dangerous concrete.

Why has temporary accommodation such as portacabins not been made available?

Whilst this is a temporary solution in some instances, it takes time to source and transport enough mobile units for a whole school community. This temporary accommodation then needs access to utilities such as power, water and sewerage which will take a number of weeks to organise.

When will my child be able to return to face-to-face learning?

At present, we are exploring several options for our pupils to return to face-to-face learning. At present, we are looking to have our EYFS children and staff relocated to English Martyrs' Catholic Primary School. With Years 1-6 at Gabriel House next to St. Anthony's Girls Catholic Academy (kindly offered by the Sisters of Mercy, Sunderland).

We are currently working with our partners to make an action plan so that all pupils at St. John Bosco can return to face-to-face learning as soon as possible.

What provision will there be if my child has an Educational Health and Care Plan and there is a concern I need to discuss?

Please email our school office at office@stjohnboscosunderland.org.uk and mark your email for the attention of our SENDCo, Mrs G Gray Your queries will then be forwarded to her, and she will be in touch as soon as possible.

Will my child be taught by staff they do not know?

No. Pupils will remain in their year groups with their class teacher from St. John Bosco. They will not be educated by members of staff from any other school.

Transport

We are aiming to provide coach transport to both settings. There will be no charge for this. Children will be picked up and dropped off at St John Bosco's each day. Further details will follow.

What will my child do for lunch?

We hope to be able to serve pupils hot school meals at both sites. Children will continue to choose what they would like from the Bishop Chadwick Kitchen menu. Payments are via ParentPay.



My child is entitled to free school meals. Will these be provided whilst the school is temporarily closed?

Children who are entitled to free school meals will continue to receive a free meal. We are exploring the possibility of providing vouchers in the short-term.

When will I receive further updates and information?

Further letters finalising our plans for face-to-face education will be posted on our school website and social media regularly. We hope to have phone-line in place within the next 24 hours.