



## **St James Catholic Primary School** **School Closure / Temporary Arrangements FAQ**

### **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. This material needs to be managed effectively and monitored by a RAAC specialist to ensure buildings remain safe. This concern has occurred at St James Catholic Primary School as our building is of a certain age.

Historic RAAC panel failures have included collapses of whole roof structures, occurring suddenly with very little warning. Whilst this hasn't happened at St James Catholic Primary School, 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 James Catholic 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.

### **Can my child enter the school building to collect items belonging to them?**

At this present moment, the school building is closed to all pupils and staff. It would not be possible for children to enter to collect items belonging to them

### **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.

### **What can parents do if they have a safeguarding concern?**

While the school building is temporarily closed, if you have a safeguarding concern about a pupil please contact the main school office at [info@stjameshebburn.co.uk](mailto:info@stjameshebburn.co.uk) We are currently working on accessing a temporary telephone number.

One of our Designated Safeguarding Leads will be in touch 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 [info@stjameshebburn.co.uk](mailto:info@stjameshebburn.co.uk) and mark your email for the attention of our SENCO, Mrs P. Lamb. 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 James. They will not be educated by members of staff from any other school.

### **Will breakfast club and after-school clubs run as normal?**

No, unfortunately in the short-term, due to the lack of site and these exceptional circumstances, we will be unable to deliver these at this stage, we will be in touch as soon as this provision is available.

**What happens if my child is ill and needs to be collected from the school they are temporarily being educated at?**

St James staff will phone parents and ask them to pick up their child from their allocated school site. We will continue to work alongside you to provide the best possible care for your child.

**Who do I ring to speak to St James staff about my child?**

We are working on securing a temporary telephone number, until then please email us at the main St James email address [info@stjameshebburn.co.uk](mailto:info@stjameshebburn.co.uk) administration staff work from 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday to Thursday and 8:00am and 3:30pm Friday. Mrs Snaith will be based at St Aloysius school from 8:30 – 10:30am each morning as a face-to-face point of contact for our Year 5 and 6 parents and carers. Mrs Gillis will be available at St James church where our R-Y4 children will have their drop off point as a face-to-face contact between 8:30pm and 10:30pm and again at 3:00 – 4:00pm. Administration staff will work within the main buildings between these times and will be available via email.

**What happens if my children are split across 2 different locations?**

We are prepared to be as flexible and accommodating as possible in this situation. We ask that older children are dropped off **before** younger children and that younger children are brought to school as soon after their older siblings as possible. We ask that this is in reverse for pick up and that younger children are picked up **before** their older siblings. If your child in Year 5 or Year 6 has permission to make their own way home we can look at this on an individual basis. Please email the school office if your child is in Years 5 or 6 and you want them to walk home from St Aloysius Primary.

**Does my child still wear their uniform?**

Yes. St James pupils still need to wear their full uniform.

**Will PE still be taught?**

Yes. PE lessons will still be taught. Therefore, children will need to wear their full St James PE kit on the pre-arranged days as we will try our absolute best to maintain this, if this needs to change we will inform you. Please find all information about your child's class on our website under the curriculum tab and then your child's class.

**What will my child do for lunch?**

We will be able to serve pupils school meals at both sites. Children will continue to choose what they would like each day however, in the early stages this will differ from the Bishop Chadwick Kitchen menu. Payments are via ParentPay. Free school meals children will receive free meals as normal.

**Are Reception Class still on their original timetable**

Reception Class will be following their individual timetables which were issued before the summer holiday. There will be no change to the staggered intake originally planned.

**Classroom Set up**

We have worked closely with Health and Safety and Safeguarding specialist teams over the last few days to make sure all correct procedures are in place.

- Children will be chaperoned at all times by their class teacher and teaching assistants from St James.
- Reception – Y4 have access to their own dedicated and secure outside space, which is completely separate and inaccessible to St Joseph's Campus.
- Children have their own dedicated toileting spaces and will be chaperoned at all times by St James staff.

- The classrooms will be set up as closely as possible to represent a primary classroom environment, we believe wholeheartedly that children will have the same opportunities to play and learn as they usually would.
- Year 5 and Year 6 will be at St Aloysius and will be taught and supported by St James staff in a primary classroom environment.

#### **Drop off and Pickups Reception – Year 4**

Reception – Y4 will be dropped off and collected from St James Church car park. Please see information below. You will not be able to drive into the church car park as the gates will be only open to foot. Please park and walk to the church car park.

#### **Drop off and Pickups Year 5 – Year 6**

Year 5 and Year 6 children should be dropped off and collected at normal school time at St Aloysius Junior school. Please see information below.

**We understand the above FAQ's are not exhaustive and you may have further questions. We will look at situations on an individual basis and will support our children and families in as many and whatever ways we can. If you feel you really will struggle getting your children between sites please get in touch with us as soon as possible, we will treat every situation individually.**

St Aloysius Primary School, Sharpendon Street, Hebburn, NE31 1RZ

St Josephs Catholic Academy, Mill Lane, Hebburn, NE31 2ET

St James Catholic Church, Mill Lane, Hebburn, NE31 2ET

