



**St. Joseph's
Catholic Infant
& Junior Schools**
Birtley



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Monday 15th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Department for Education School Rebuild Programme Update

You will be aware that St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, Birtley, were selected to be part of the Department for Education's (DfE) School Rebuild Programme (SRP) in July 2022 (Juniors) and December 2022 (Infants).

The DfE are acutely aware that our community will also have seen media coverage regarding schools that contain Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC). Consequently, the DfE would like to provide some assurance to our school community relating to St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools, ongoing SRP project.

Prior to the RAAC situation, the schools (including the infant and junior schools), which were previously selected for SRP, had already been prioritised into provisional delivery 'groups' according to the condition of their estate. Despite the national challenges of RAAC challenges, the DfE remains committed to deliver St. Joseph's project.

As St Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools had already been prioritised by the DfE, the schools remain within their current prioritisation category. The DfE would like to provide further assurance to our families that they are still committed to delivering the project: providing our community with a new school.

Work is still ongoing to provide solutions to some of the questions that have arisen in relation to the development of the schools' project, and the DfE will continue to provide you with updates as the development progresses.

We thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. Swaddle
Executive Headteacher
St. Joseph's Catholic Infant and Junior Schools

Mrs L. Stephenson.
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust