

**The communication to us about the school closure was, at times, dishonest. During the first week of the closure we were sent daily messages giving the impression that the school might be open the next day. Meanwhile, some people at the top of the organisation clearly knew that the problem was a longer term one, and we now know that it took the Gosforth Group 8 days to get someone on site to start inspections and checks.**

As tenants we informed all parties of the problem as soon as possible.

DfE/Local Authority/PFI and families.

At all times we were hopeful that a solution could be found quickly

**Why were parents not informed in a more timely manner regarding the seriousness of the situation and the high probability that the school would be closed for a lengthy period of time?**

The situation that caused the schools closure was a "significant concern to us".

We expected a prompt response from our PFI contract holders.

**Why was it not communicated earlier clarifying the 'after hours' usage of the site?**

The after-hours use of the building is nothing to do with the Trust nor JPA.

The PFI Company chose to operate income generating lettings.

**What is the Gosforth Group and the School going to do to rebuild trust and instil confidence with parents and students that education is the priority?**

We faced a serious situation and we had no alternative but to close the school for the safety of our children.

If we need to rebuild your trust and confidence for making that decision?

This year's exam results and the recovery package tabled by Mr Campbell will hopefully restore your confidence in Jesmond Park Academy.

**What business continuity plans were in place at the time of the incident, how have they been updated to ensure this situation doesn't occur again?**

**AND**

**Why was another venue not sought that could rehouse Jesmond Park Academy?**

We cannot guarantee that this or some similar event will not happen again.

BUT we have received 100% support from the DfE – fully funded options:-

- a. Cobalt Park office space.
- b. 60-80 temporary classrooms.  
The above options were deemed not practical for a school with in excess of 2000 students.
- c. Make the site safe as soon as possible and move to remote learning to plug the gap in learning.

**Why did it take so long to establish that it would be a long term problem?**

One month is not considered to be a long term problem by PFI standards, but it is too long as far as we are concerned.

Technical experts – Structural Engineers could not agree on the safety reports.

**What is the Gosforth Group doing to prevent a lengthy closure happening again?**

1. I refer to Mr Campbell's catch up plan and remote learning updates.
2. We are hoping that our contract holders will be able to guarantee that the site is fit for purpose.
3. We would use other schools in the MAT for some pupils to attend – our vulnerable students and any specific groups, as needed

**Will any remedial works be taking place or will the scaffolding be up indefinitely?**

The scaffolding is rented – so we are hopeful that the site will be declared safe and the scaffolding can be removed.

**Is the money being spent on scaffolding coming out of the school budget that would usually be spent on education?**

The money is from MAT reserves or MAT capital funding – NOT from the school budget. We estimate £100,000 will be the cost to the MAT.

**Who are the owners of the school building answerable to? How can we as parents put pressure on the owners?**

Contract is between PFI Company and the local authority.

The local authority has the services of a very competent legal team that keeps a watching brief on the PFI Company. This is all operated within the complex PFI contract.

**What are your key learnings from the situation?**

1. Keeping children safe is our number one priority.
2. When we have finished with the PFI contract in around 5 – 6 years, we will be able to manage Jesmond Park Academy as we do our other five schools.
3. We must insist that our onsite PFI team are making the necessary inspections and reporting back to our on-site premises lead.
4. If possible give parents/carers/families as much validated information as soon as possible regarding any disruption.