

As you know, we are planning to rebuild a new Island School in the near future. One of the key reasons for this is the degradation of the current buildings which we feel will require increasing maintenance in the coming years. Until we actually move out of the current school in 2017, and pull it down, our priority is to ensure the absolute safety of the environment for all who use it.

Over the last 10 days, the Facilities Team from ESF Centre and our staff at school have been working with expert contractors to install additional protection measures to ensure the safety of the campus. These measures include additional scaffolding and protective netting layers as well as further inspection of all external areas of the school building.

The work that has been done may not be the most aesthetically pleasing solution, but it is certainly a safe one. As we gather more information on the condition of the building structure, we will be looking to see whether different steps need to be taken in the medium term, or whether we can move to a better looking protection for us to live and work in. Continued investigations into the structure will inform any further or more rigorous measures to be installed/ taken. If this is necessary, such works would be done during Christmas, Easter and/ or Summer breaks.

For now, the school campus has been given the all clear from ESF Centre that it is safe for use and that classes can continue as usual. Regular and detailed inspections of the mitigation measures installed will be done by the Facilities Team at ESF Centre working closely with a Registered Structural Engineer and Consultants, as well as the school team, to monitor the safety of the school environment.

We will look into ways that we can make the school look better while we have this protection up.

Island School has the full support of ESF Centre and the Facilities Team and, as always, the safety of our students, staff and visitors is our top priority.

Chris Binge
Principal