

Darcy Road Public School

Works notification

12 October 2022

A project is underway to upgrade Darcy Road Public School with new permanent learning spaces and core facilities to support the growing population in Western Sydney.

Site investigations and remediation activities

Further to the project update and holiday works notification (dated September 2022), over the Spring school holidays, contractors undertook inspections of existing buildings and geotechnical and environmental investigations to inform planning for the upgrade project.

During the site investigations several suspected asbestos containing concrete fragments were found on the surface of the sports oval, the areas adjacent to Block C, E, F and Q, and underneath Block E. Testing conducted by an independent hygienist has confirmed the fragments as bonded asbestos which means it is attached to the cement and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

Following the advice and protocols of asbestos removalists, assessors and other experts, the areas were isolated and the fragments were removed on Thursday 29 September 2022.

The areas were remediated in accordance with SafeWork NSW regulations and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. The work was completed by a licensed and accredited asbestos contractor, and monitored by an occupational hygienist in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

The accessible areas have been inspected to ensure they have been fully remediated and the school has received a clearance certificate from the independent hygienist.

The inaccessible area under Block E will undergo further remediation during the construction works for the upgrade project.

An asbestos management plan is in place for Darcy Road Public School. The plan includes regular visual inspections of the school at three monthly intervals as part of routine building inspections, after periods of prolonged heavy rain and whenever damage or disturbance had been reported. Any suspected asbestos containing material is reported to the local Asset Management Unit for action. For more information about managing asbestos in public schools, please see the information overleaf.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority and we will continue to keep the community updated.

For more information contact:

School Infrastructure NSW
Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

Managing asbestos in Public Schools

How is asbestos managed on public school sites?

Hazardous material on public school sites is managed in strict accordance with Safe Work NSW and all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines including the Department's Asbestos Management Plan for NSW Government Schools.

The plan covers how asbestos is managed on school sites, organisational responsibilities, removal and remediation procedures and ongoing asbestos management.

Any asbestos concerns are reported to the local Asset Management Unit. The Department takes immediate action where necessary, consistent with relevant statutory guidelines. When removing asbestos, work is scheduled to ensure no risk to students, staff or the community.

Where can asbestos be found?

The Department of Education manages a large and diverse portfolio of school infrastructure. Asbestos was commonly used between the 1940's and late 1980's and is present today in materials of the era such as cement sheeting, some old heaters, vinyl floor tiles, insulation and wall lining.

What are the different types of asbestos?

Non-bonded asbestos (friable) - Any material that contains asbestos and is in a powder form or can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to powder by hand pressure when dry. If disturbed, fibres can become airborne.

Bonded asbestos (non-friable) - Bonded asbestos is attached to other materials such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled or powdered by light pressure.

Vermiculite - Vermiculite is a product that can be combined with asbestos. Test data shows less than 2% of vermiculite in NSW schools contains asbestos. The Department has an ongoing remediation program for vermiculite containing asbestos.

Does all asbestos need to be removed?

No. There are several ways to control asbestos, depending on the type of asbestos and its location. Removing the material may not always be the most appropriate way of managing it.

School asbestos registers

Each school has an asbestos register which records all identified and suspected asbestos on the site. The register is publicly available and is consulted before any maintenance or capital works are undertaken at a school.

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