

Darlington Public School

Works notification

11 February 2021

Material containing asbestos found during soil investigations

Dear Parent or Carer,

Darlington Public School is being upgraded to deliver new facilities and provide for growing student enrolments in the area. Early works construction is currently underway.

The early works over the holiday period allowed the following to be delivered:

- The temporary preschool was refurbished and commenced operations
- The OSHC (out of hours care) was relocated to the existing hall during construction
- Construction of the new sports court has progressed
- Demolition of the existing Block C and preschool was completed

Remediation activities over the summer holiday

We have received questions from the school community regarding the remediation activities on the site and can clarify the following:

- During the early works demolition activities in late December 2020 material containing asbestos was found and addressed in accordance with the requirements of the approved Remediation Action Plan.
- The material containing asbestos was identified in construction material and in the excavated soils.
- The construction material uncovered during demolition has been safely removed from site.
- The soils contain fragments of asbestos and are addressed under the approved methods of the Remediation Action Plan.

Remediation has been taking place during the summer school holidays as part of early works. Local neighbours in the vicinity of the school were notified accordingly.

The material containing asbestos was found after the school term had ended, no students were on site when the asbestos was found or its removal was taking place.

Additional safety measures were immediately put in place to ensure there is no risk to students, staff or the local community. The area was secured and appropriate control and monitoring measures have been installed.

The material which remains within the construction site is soil which contains fragments of asbestos. The material is within the fenced construction site which is not accessible by students or staff and is securely covered by specialist methods in accordance with the project's Remediation Action Plan. The material is also fenced and signposted in accordance with the relevant regulations. This material will be managed on site under the approved Remediation Action Plan.

The contractor has confirmed that the specialist coverings which secures the material is in place and maintained in accordance with the licensed occupational hygienist's advice. The contractor is responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of this on an ongoing basis, and SINSW and our consultants undertake weekly inspections of site conditions.

The remediation of all material is conducted in strict accordance with the Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan, Safe Work NSW, and all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

The information regarding the asbestos removal was made available on the Darlington Public School project webpage, and a notification issued to inform local residents as soon as possible. Parents were notified of this find during Week 2 Term 1 when school resumed after the summer school holidays.

Health and safety measures in place

The health, safety and well-being of the school community and local residents is our highest priority. Construction planning has been designed so there is minimal impact on school operations.

The site will continue to be safely remediated throughout construction in accordance with the Department of Education's Management Plans and Safe Work NSW regulations. This work may involve removal of materials, or the safe covering of the ground with specialist methods in accordance with the Remediation Action Plan.

Remediation is conducted by a licensed and accredited asbestos removalist and overseen by a licenced occupational hygienist, in strict accordance with The Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan, Safe Work NSW, and all applicable legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines.

Safety measures are in place to separate the construction site from areas occupied by the school by hoarding and ensure students are unable to enter construction areas. Appropriate control and monitoring measures have been installed.

An interim clearance certificate for the new basketball court area has been provided. A clearance certificate will be issued by a consultant hygienist after the full remediation within the construction site is complete, prior to the handover of the new buildings for students and staff to occupy.

There is regular consultation with the school to discuss construction progress.

Next steps

Construction works will be coordinated across two stages to prioritise safety and amenity, minimise disruption and maximise open play space.

Main works construction will begin around March 2021 and stage 2 is expected to begin in 2022. More information will be released to the school and local community around the start of main works construction.

Thank you for your patience while we deliver this important school infrastructure.

For more information contact:

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