

Dear staff and parents/carers,

On Wednesday 3 April 2024 fragments of suspected asbestos were identified on the ground near the school oval retaining wall at Dudley Public School.

Following this find the fragments were removed, the area was immediately fenced off and an independent hygienist was engaged to undertake testing and install air monitoring.

Testing confirmed the fragments contained bonded asbestos, which means they were attached to other materials such as tiles or cement and cannot be crumbled by light pressure.

NSW Health explains that if bonded asbestos is mixed with cement or other hard bonding materials, and in good condition, it is likely to be low-risk.

As this location near the school oval was outside of the area previously identified on the site-specific Remediation Action Plan (RAP) this area has been added to the areas requiring remediation. The site-specific RAP has been updated.

Following on from our last update ([December 2023](#)) the independent hygienist has provided recommendations for the next stages of work to support the RAP.

Planned work over Terms 2 and 3 and School Holiday periods 2024

The next stages of remediation have been scheduled to take place outside of school hours between **28 June 2024 until 30 September 2024**.

This work will be conducted over consecutive weekends in Terms 2 and 3 and will include the Winter School Holiday and Spring School Holiday periods.

This work will be done in the oval and grassed playground areas west of the sports courts with air monitoring in place during the work and will include the final remediation steps below:

- installing new astro turf
- applying fresh wood chip to soft fall areas.

NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure

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Some areas will continue to be fenced off during Terms 2 and 3 to enable the new grass to establish.

All work will be done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Work will be done under the supervision of an independent hygienist with additional safety measures and air monitoring in place before the work starts.

All work will be completed by licensed and accredited asbestos contractors and monitored by independent hygienists in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

Following the work, the school site will be inspected by the independent hygienist and the school will receive a clearance certificate before the areas are reopened.

We will keep the community updated on the finalisation of the remediation plan and reopening of playground spaces once they are completed.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority.

If you have any questions about the work, please contact the NSW Department of Education on the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.