

Dear staff, parents and carers,

During planned fence installation work at Gladesville Public School, a fragment of suspected asbestos-containing material was found in the grass next to the boundary fence on Meriton Street.

The area was barricaded and made out of bounds to students and staff.

The school has a site-specific asbestos management plan for known asbestos in-ground. The fragment was found in an area not listed on this plan.

The material has since tested positive for bonded asbestos, which means it is 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 a precaution, an independent hygienist will attend the school on Saturday, 8 June to perform a thorough inspection to ensure no additional building materials have surfaced after the recent heavy rain.

All work will be done outside of school hours, in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures will be in place while work is being done. 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.

The area will be inspected by the independent hygienist to confirm it has been fully remediated, and a clearance certificate will be issued before the area is reopened.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

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