Hammondville Public School Works notification | 20 May 2025

Dear staff, parents, carers and neighbours,

Following the notifications on <u>13 September 2024</u>, <u>27 November 2024</u> and <u>9 December 2024</u>, we would like to provide an update on the ongoing management of inground bonded asbestos at Hammondville Public School.

The school has a site-specific management plan (SSAMP) in place, which includes regular inspections throughout the year and after periods of heavy rainfall. In light of the above-average rainfall over the past year, we have identified a series of bonded asbestos in different locations across the school. As a result, we are currently working with an independent hygienist to develop a comprehensive Remediation Action Plan (RAP).

To support the development of the RAP, an environmental soil assessment will be conducted by the independent hygienist during the Winter School Holidays, from Monday 7 July until Saturday 12 July, to identify the location and extent of any sub-surface contamination across the school. All previous finds of bonded asbestos have been remediated, and a clearance certificate was provided for those areas.

As a precautionary measure, access to school grounds will be restricted during the school holiday period until the results of the environmental soil assessment are received. We want to reassure the community that the school will continue to operate for Term 3.

NSW Health explains that "living or working with asbestos, or just being around it, is a low risk to your health as long as the asbestos is in good condition and not damaged".

Vacation care during winter school holidays

School leadership is currently working with the vacation care provider to look at options to relocate the service for the whole school holiday period.

The vacation care provider will keep the community updated.

Environmental soil assessment

The environmental soil assessment will involve borehole testing in approximately 30 sample sites around the grounds of the school. The boreholes will be up to 1.5 metres in depth, have samples taken from them, then refilled and covered.

All work will be done in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. Safety measures, including air monitoring, signage and workers wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) will be in place while work is being done. All work will be completed by licensed asbestos contractors and inspected by independent hygienists.



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Once the collection of soil for testing is completed, an independent hygienist will inspect the work and issue a clearance certificate to enable the school to operate as normal for Term 3.

Once we receive the RAP from the independent hygienist, we will update the community on next steps. If required, remediation work will be scheduled outside of school hours to minimise disruption to teaching and learning.

The health, safety, and wellbeing of all members of our school and the local community are our highest priorities.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.