Salt Ash Public School

Works notification | 4 June 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

Following the notice issued by the school on Sunday 25 May 2025, test results were received Friday 30 May evening after soil samples were taken by an independent hygienist.

Results confirmed all samples were below the current health-based guideline values for PFAS for Salt Ash Public School. However, the grassed areas remain out of bounds due to ground contamination caused by the sewer overflowing during the severe weather in May.

On Saturday 7 June, the department will remediate the affected areas with hydrated lime. Once the treatment has been completed, and the grounds have had time to dry, an independent hygienist will take soil samples to validate the work and ensure the soil levels are safe for the grounds to be reopened.

This is a common method to clean soil and grass that has been contaminated by floodwater.

Hydrated lime helps raise the pH level in the ground, which aims to disinfect and neutralise pathogens in the soil.

What is hydrated lime?

Hydrated lime is a powder derived from limestone that is spread all over the grass and soil. It is then watered in to incorporate the lime into the grass and soil layers.

Hydrated lime is commonly found in hardware stores and comes with clear instructions for its appropriate use.

Landscaping contractors will apply the powder and water in it into the grassed areas. Supervision by an independent hygienist is not required for this work.

The areas treated with hydrated lime will stay closed to staff and students until the lime is fully absorbed into the soil.

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.



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