

Speers Point Public School

Works notification | 9 February 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

As you may be aware, the North Lake Macquarie area is known to have experienced elevated levels of lead in the soil and dust due to the Pasminco lead smelter and the historical use of slag as landfill. This includes the suburbs of Argenton, Boolaroo and Speers Point and the three primary schools within that catchment area.

This notification is to update you on some recent enhancements to our lead management practices and activities that took place at your school over the Summer school holidays and start of Term 1 2024.

We arranged additional enhanced cleaning of internal spaces at the school focusing on areas that are difficult to keep clean regularly due to inaccessibility, such as behind bulky equipment or on very high surfaces.

In addition to this internal cleaning, we have finished some precautionary grounds maintenance work to support ground cover of the soil, following recommendations from independent environmental specialists.

This included installing new topsoil, turf, and garden edges to sections of the sports oval. These areas are in the playground near the OOSH and Student Toilets (Building K) on the northern side of the school grounds. In areas near the Administration Building (A) on the southern side of the school grounds we have also installed topsoil and new turf.

While the works are finished you may notice some areas with new grass remain cordoned off with temporary bunting in place to allow the grass time to establish.

Following all these precautionary measures, the environmental specialist has inspected the site and conducted monitoring and testing to confirm completed management activities have been effective.

We are planning additional sampling across the school site conducted by environmental specialists to update Lead Management Plans for each school and will continue to manage the site in accordance with these plans and the advice of experts. We will keep you updated on the timing of this work sampling work.

We will continue to work with the environmental specialists and school leadership on ongoing monitoring and management.

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 us on the details below.

More information

- For information on lead in North Lake Macquarie, see the [Hunter New England Local Health District's webpage](#).
- For information on environmental and health impacts of lead, see the [webpage from the Federal Department of Climate Change, the Environment and Water](#).

