

Sylvania Heights Public School

Works notification | 13 August 2024

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On Friday 2 August 2024, a piece of building material was found on the ground in Playground A at Sylvania Heights Public School.

The material was suspected to contain asbestos. As a precautionary measure, the area was temporarily taped off and made out of bounds.

We engaged an independent hygienist to inspect the area and organise the sample for testing. No other fragments or material was found by the independent hygienist.

On Wednesday 7 August 2024, testing confirmed the sample contained bonded asbestos.

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.

Air monitoring returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it is consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines. Asbestos fibres pose a risk to health if airborne. In this case the evidence and advice from our hygienist is that there is no airborne asbestos in this area.

No remediation work was required and the independent hygienist issued a clearance certificate.

The area has been re-opened for regular use.

All inspection work was 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 were in place while the inspection was done.

All work was completed by a licensed and accredited asbestos independent hygienist in strict accordance with all applicable legislation, regulations, policies, and guidelines.

We are working with the independent hygienist to develop a site-specific management plan (SSAMP) for the school. When the SSAMP is finalised it will be available online with the school's asbestos register.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

