

Macquarie Fields Public School

Works notification | 23 May 2024

Dear staff, parents/carers,

On 17 May 2024, 2 fragments of building material were found in the dirt playground area to the north of Building Q at Macquarie Fields Public School.

These fragments were found in an area listed on the school's site-specific asbestos management plan. We have followed the requirements of this plan, and the area has been temporarily fenced off while testing and further inspections are done.

Testing has confirmed that the 2 fragments contain bonded asbestos. Bonded asbestos means it is attached to other material such as vinyl or concrete and cannot be crumbled under 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.

We have engaged an independent hygienist to inspect the impacted areas and provide recommendations for remediation if required. Any work involving asbestos containing material will take place outside of school hours with additional safety measures and air monitoring put in place before the work starts.

The playground area will be inspected by an independent hygienist to confirm it has been fully remediated, and the school will receive a clearance certificate before they are reopened.

On 21 May 2024, in a separate incident, a toilet roll holder was broken in a staff toilet in the Administration Building. This made a small hole in a wall panel known to contain bonded asbestos as listed on the school's asbestos register.

The toilet was immediately cordoned off and staff are using other toilets. We are organising to have the hole encapsulated so staff can continue using the toilets. Replacement of the panel will be organised later in the year under planned maintenance.

All inspection work will be done in accordance with work, health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan. 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 health, safety, and wellbeing of the school and the local community is our highest priority.

NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure

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If you have any questions about the work, please contact the NSW Department of Education on the details below.

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.