

Valentine Public School

Works notification | 21 May 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On Wednesday 9 April 2025, during planned maintenance that we notified about ahead of the autumn holidays, we found fragments of material suspected to contain asbestos in the ground next to Building F during excavation at Valentine Public School.

The area is not listed on the school's Site-Specific Asbestos Management (SSAMP) but it will be updated to include this find.

Work stopped immediately and the fragments were covered until an independent hygienist attended to inspect the area, install air monitoring and remove samples for testing.

Temporary construction fencing was already installed around the construction site and will remain in place until works are completed.

Test results confirmed the fragments contained bonded asbestos. 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".

Air monitoring returned results to date are 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.

On Saturday 31 May, on the hygienist's recommendation, licensed contractors will remove and dispose of 10 cubic metres of soil in accordance with SafeWork NSW requirements.

Work hours will be between 8 am and 1 pm, in line with NSW Environment Protection Authority guidelines.

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 will be in place while work is being done. All work will be completed by licensed asbestos contractors.

Once the asbestos is removed, an independent hygienist will inspect the area and issue a clearance certificate for construction works to continue.

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.



Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au
Phone: 1300 482 651
www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au