

Merewether Heights Public School

Works notification | 02 April 2024

Dear staff and parents/carers,

We are replacing a broken window in the Building D classroom block at Merewether Heights Public School. This involves working with suspected asbestos containing material in the window frame.

As a precaution, the classroom was isolated from students and staff on 10 March 2024 and an independent hygienist has undertaken testing and air monitoring. Testing confirmed the putty material in the window frame contained bonded asbestos. This means it is attached to other materials such as cement or vinyl and cannot be crumbled by 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.

The window has been boarded up as a safety measure and the room was isolated while we conducted an environmental clean with air monitoring.

All work involving asbestos containing materials took place outside of school hours. Work was inspected and cleared by an independent hygienist and the room has now been reopened for use.

Work to replace the window glass and remove the putty will be conducted **during the Autumn school holidays**. This period may include **from the end of the school day on Friday 12 April 2024 up to the first day of Term 2 for staff on Monday 29 April 2024**.

Work will be done under the supervision of an independent hygienist with additional safety measures and air monitoring in place before the work starts.

All 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.

After the work is finished, the classroom will be inspected by the independent hygienist and the school will receive a clearance certificate before the room is reopened.

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

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

