

Glenvale School North Entrance Campus

Community update | 15 March 2024

Updated Works Notification

Following the update outlined below, on 12 March 2024, some additional fragments were identified on the ground outside the isolated section of the playground. Following the find, the area was immediately fenced off. An independent hygienist was engaged who installed air monitoring, removed the fragments for testing, inspected the area and cleared the ground.

Testing confirmed the fragments did not contain asbestos. This area has been cleared to be reopened by the independent hygienist.

While we are waiting for the Development Application approval, we have also scheduled work to encapsulate the remaining area still fenced off. This will take place in stages between Saturday 23 March and Friday 4 April. This work will include the installation of a layer of geo-fabric with an additional layer of synthetic turf on top.

All work involving asbestos containing materials will take place outside of school hours, with additional safety measures and air monitoring in place. 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.

Once this work is completed the school will receive a clearance certificate from the independent hygienist to reopen the playground.

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

Thank you for your understanding.

March 2024

We are managing known asbestos in ground at Glenvale School. Following a find of asbestos containing fragments last year, we have been working with an independent hygienist to review previous work at the school under a Remediation Action Plan in 2021 and 2022. This work encapsulated the playground area with artificial turf.



Update on remediation plans and Development Application

As you will be aware a small section in the playground area next to the sports court remains fenced off following a find of asbestos fragments in May 2023.

We have been planning for remediation of this area and have lodged a development application (DA) with Central Coast Council to carry out the works. A DA is required because of the school's proximity to the coast. Proposed remediation work includes the removal of contaminated soil and encapsulation of the area currently fenced off.

This DA application is awaiting approval by Council, and all information about the application (DA/158/2024) are available on their website.

When the DA is granted, we will provide an update on timing of work at the school.

Measures in place

While this planning and approval takes place, we continue to follow all advice from the independent hygienist on measures on site. This includes the continuing to isolate the area associated with fragment finds in 2023. The soil is covered with geofabric, with air monitoring in place.

All air monitoring to date across the site has 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. These results represent a consistent finding that there is not a detectable level of asbestos fibres in the air in this area. Asbestos fibres pose a risk to health if airborne. In this case the evidence and advice from our hygienist is that there is not airborne asbestos in this area.

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

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

