

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On 15 March 2024 during construction work at Caroline Chisholm School, fragments of building material suspected to contain asbestos was found in the ground. The fragment was found during excavation work in the fenced off construction site northeast of the swimming pool. This area is not identified as an area that contains in ground asbestos as per the school's Site Specific Asbestos Management Plan.

Work stopped immediately, and the construction site was closed.

We engaged an independent hygienist to inspect the site, remove the fragments and arrange for it to be tested as per the schools Site Specific Asbestos Management Plan.

The results confirmed that the fragment contained bonded asbestos, which means it was attached to other materials such as tiles or cement 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.

Work to remediate this area of the site will start on Saturday 11 May 2024. All work involving asbestos containing material will happen outside of school hours.

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.

The area will be inspected by the independent hygienist and the school will receive a clearance certificate before the construction work starts again.

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.

**NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure**

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