

Kempsey High School

Works notification | 21 October 2024

Dear staff, parents and carers,

On Thursday 26 September 2024, the veranda ceiling in Building G1 was damaged at Kempsey High School.

This building's ceiling is listed on the school's asbestos register. The area was immediately made out of bounds and access for students and staff was restricted with temporary fencing.

On Friday 27 September, we engaged an independent hygienist to take samples for testing, conduct air monitoring and advise on remediation work. No fallen fragments were found on the ground.

Testing confirmed the damaged ceiling contained bonded asbestos, as listed on the register. As a precautionary measure, local contractors installed plywood over the damage to encapsulate the area until it can be repaired on Saturday 9 November 2024.

All air monitoring 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.

In a separate incident in the same building during the Spring School Holidays, multiple windows in a classroom were broken. The window frames were suspected to contain asbestos.

The classroom was locked, temporary fencing was installed to further restrict access and the windows were boarded with plywood sheeting.

Students were relocated to an alternative classroom when they returned for Term 4.

An independent hygienist was engaged to assess the damage and take samples for testing. Testing results confirmed there was no asbestos present.

Repairs to the windows will be scheduled at a later date.

All work involving the asbestos 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 done.

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.

When the works are finished, an independent hygienist will issue clearance certificates before both areas are reopened for use.

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.



