

# Kempsey High School

Works notification | 8 April 2024

Dear staff, parents/carers and neighbours,

On 11 September 2023 we notified the school community about a fragment of building material (suspected to contain asbestos) that was found on the ground in the dirt near the main quadrangle at Kempsey High School.

Following the advice of the independent hygienist, the area has remained fenced off and inaccessible to students and staff. As an additional precautionary measure, the ground was concealed with Geofabric.

Testing confirmed that the fragment contained bonded asbestos which means it is 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.

The independent hygienist has recommended for excavation work to be done so we can inspect deeper layers of the ground as part of the remediation plan for this area. This work will take place during the April school holidays.

The area will remain cordoned off, with additional safety measures and air monitoring put in place before the work starts.

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 an independent hygienist to confirm it has been fully remediated, and the school will receive a clearance certificate. The area will remain fenced off in preparation for the landscape project (unrelated to this find) that is planned for the school.

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.

