

Mount Austin High School

Works notification | 7 February 2025

Dear staff, parents and carers,

While removing asbestos-containing material in the ceiling of the Building E movement area at Mount Austin High School as part of planned maintenance, a contractor discovered suspected friable asbestos.

Testing by an independent hygienist confirmed the material was friable asbestos.

Friable refers to asbestos which can be crumbled, pulverised or reduced to a powder by hand pressure.

The asbestos was encapsulated and the ceiling linings were replaced.

Additional testing

As a proactive measure, we engaged the independent hygienist to undertake further inspections throughout the school.

Friable asbestos was identified in the building A, B, D and G ceiling voids and is presumed to be present in the building C and F ceiling voids, which are inaccessible.

The ceiling voids in buildings A, B, C, D, G have been encapsulated.

The independent hygienist has confirmed these buildings can continue to be used.

Friable asbestos was also found in an interview room and an electrical cupboard in Building F and its ceiling has also been encapsulated.

On the independent hygienist's advice, both areas have been locked and made out of bounds.

Air monitoring returned results below the minimum detectable limit, which means it was consistent with acceptable levels in ambient air (i.e. <0.01 fibres/mL) as per SafeWork NSW guidelines.

The contractor and independent hygienist have been scheduled to complete asbestos remediation in Building F on Saturday 15 February 2025.

The independent hygienist will inspect the areas to confirm they have been remediated and advise when they can be reopened.

All work will be done in accordance with work health and safety laws and the NSW Department of Education's Asbestos Management Plan by licensed asbestos contractors and will be monitored by independent hygienists.

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

