

Dear staff and parents/carers,

As part of works to improve accessibility, we are replacing flooring and removing known asbestos-containing material in the vinyl tiles in 3 classrooms in the lower level of Building L at Merewether High School.

The material in the vinyl tiles under the existing carpet contains bonded asbestos, as per the school's asbestos register. This 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.

Following advice from the hygienist, work to remove the vinyl tiles and replace the carpet will take place on Saturday 18 May 2024.

Work will be done under the supervision of an independent hygienist with additional safety measures and air monitoring in place before the work starts.

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 classrooms are currently cordoned off from students and staff as part of the construction zone. Following the work, the building will be inspected by the independent hygienist and the school will receive a clearance certificate before the rooms are reopened.

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

Thank you for your cooperation during this important work.

NSW Department of Education, School Infrastructure

Email: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au

Phone: 1300 482 651

www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au