



OHS ASBESTOS POLICY

RATIONALE

- Asbestos is one of a number a potentially hazardous building materials not uncommonly found in existing school buildings. Due to the potentially hazardous nature of asbestos, it needs to be effectively managed.

AIMS

- To provide a school environment safe from the potentially harmful effects of asbestos.
- That asbestos contained in construction materials in existing buildings is safely managed.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Asbestos can be found in ceilings, vinyl floor tiles, electrical switch boards, walls and in the eaves of school buildings. It may also be used in heat resistant mats/materials in science labs.
- Asbestos in schools is relatively safe if it is sealed, enclosed or encapsulated and not disturbed.
- An OHS committee will be established and it will meet at least monthly consistent with an OHS committee Charter that it develops. An OHS Representative (OHSR) will be elected by staff. The OHSR and the principal will be key members of the OHS committee.
- The OHS committee in consultation with staff will create a work place appropriate OHS Risk Register which will identify, locate and describe potential workplace hazards and rate the inherent risks associated with each hazard.
- The OHS committee's attention is to be drawn to the fact that the Department of Education conducts a program of regular asbestos auditing in schools. Each school (other than new sites) will have access to the audit report. If our school is found to contain asbestos we will have an up to date Asbestos Management Plan, and the principal will assume the role of the Asbestos coordinator.
- The report will be communicated to the OHS committee, OHSR, employees and contractors commissioned to work at the school. All reported hazardous building materials, including asbestos will be entered on the OHS Hazardous Building Materials Register.
- We will inform the Department of Education of the identification of asbestos at the school and follow their advice in relation to its handling and/or removal.
- The OHS committee will refer to the hierarchy of controls (eliminate, substitute, isolate, engineering, administration, personal protective equipment) and establish a series of controls that eliminate or effectively minimise and manage the risk associated with asbestos.
- The OHS Risk Register will provide advice as to the location of asbestos materials as well as the controls that are to be implemented for asbestos material as well as a schedule indicating implementation timelines for each proposed control.
- All contractors will be shown Asbestos Management Plan prior to conducting any works in areas that may contain asbestos.

- Contractors will be required to provide Safe Work Method Statements to the principal before commencing any work that is potentially hazardous.
 - The OHS committee will, in consultation with all staff, establish and conduct an annual OHS Activities Calendar of mandated and situational OH&S requirements including workplace inspections of asbestos areas to monitor their condition.
 - Only certified contractors will be commissioned to remove or carry out works involving asbestos and other hazardous building materials.
 - The OHS Risk Register will be updated to reflect any changed condition of hazardous materials and reflect the phased introduction of hazard controls.
 - School Council will provide sufficient funds over time to ensure that the control measures (including training) as identified in the OHS Risk Register are implemented.
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- The principal will seek advice from the Department of Education regarding any areas of concern relating to asbestos or its management.

EVALUATION:

- An annual Occupational Health and Safety review will be conducted by the appointed OHSR in consultation with the principal and nominees from the OHS committee or after any serious incident or near miss.
- The outcomes of this review will be placed on the OHS notice board and will be included within the Buildings and Grounds committee's report to School Council and the community.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last updated on November 2019 and is scheduled for review in November 2022.