

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

POLICY

Rationale:

- Asbestos is a potentially lethal material often contained in construction materials 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.**
- All state school buildings have been audited for asbestos. This audit is known as a Part 5 Audit and identifies the presence of asbestos or any other hazardous materials.
- The school principal or nominated school asbestos manager can use their EduMail username and password to access their school's individual Part 5 Asbestos Audit reports at:
<http://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/forms/asbestos>
- Asbestos classified as a result of the Audit as Category 0 or 1 has been removed from school buildings. Any remaining asbestos in schools (ie: Categories 2 and 3) represent no danger to students or staff if properly treated during the conduct of works.
- Copies of the Part 5 Audit must be made available to the school's Occupational Health and Safety officer, interested community members, and consistent with OHS (Asbestos) Regulations the principal must consult with all employees when a building or structure containing asbestos is being demolished or refurbished before any action is taken to assess or control the risk.
- The Asbestos Management Unit engaged on behalf of DEECD to assist schools with asbestos management issues
- **All contractors will be shown Part 5 of our Asbestos Management Plan prior to conducting any works.**
- **Only certified contractors will be commissioned to remove or carry out works involving asbestos and other hazardous building materials.**
- **Contractors will be required to provide Safe Work Method Statements to the principal before commencing any work that is potentially hazardous.**

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Occupational Health & Safety representative and Asbestos Program Manager for school council as part of the school's regular review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

September 2012