

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to inform you that the school has identified asbestos containing material (ACM) in the primary school garden beds. The ACM has been discovered in recycled building materials that have been used as ground cover in the garden beds.

Testing of the material confirms that it is non-friable asbestos. This means that if left undisturbed, it presents no hazard to students or staff. To eliminate the chance of the material being disturbed, the school with the assistance of the Education Directorate, is placing construction fences around the garden bed areas where positive samples have been identified.

Samples are being taken at other garden beds on the school campus and will be tested by an Environmental Hygienist.

Initial removal works of the garden bed material will commence after school hours in the coming week by licenced asbestos removalists and a plan to rehabilitate the area with new gardens will be developed. It is expected this work will be completed as soon as practicable in consultation with WorkSafe ACT.

I want to assure you that the safety and welfare of our students and staff is always our priority and have been informed that there is a low risk associated with this situation. We will continue to monitor the garden beds with the Education Directorate and WorkSafe ACT. If you are concerned that you or your children may have been exposed to asbestos associated with the garden beds, please notify the school and seek advice from your doctor.

Further information about asbestos is available from the WorkSafe ACT website www.asbestos.act.gov.au and information about health related matters are also available at: www.asbestostaskforce.act.gov.au/faqs/infosheets#health

Yours sincerely
Jason Holmes
Principal
30 August 2018