
THE PATCH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Asbestos

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.
- 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.
- In doing so, the school will engage a competent person to conduct an audit of our school and provide a formal report that identifies the types, locations and conditions of any hazardous building materials, including asbestos.
- 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 OHS Advisory Service (1300 074 715) 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 detail the controls that are to be implemented for asbestos material as well as a schedule indicating implementation timelines for each proposed control.
- 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 DET workplaces. Each school (other than Greenfield sites) will have a copy of the division 5 audit report. Schools can access their report at <https://www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/PRMSaudit/Search.asp> 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.

- The principal should seek advice from the OHS Advisory Service on **1300 074 715** for information regarding any areas in concern.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was originally formed, in consultation with all members of the wider community (all staff, parents, students, and interested members of the community) as part of the school's five - year review cycle.

References:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/management/Pages/hazardousbuildmaterials.aspx>

Principal



School Council President

