



Eversley Primary School

Asbestos Policy

Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure that its staff, pupils, contractors, visitors and all people using our premises are protected from exposure to asbestos.

Background

This school understands that it has a legal and moral duty to protect employees, pupils, visitors and other persons on its premises from exposure to hazards such as asbestos.

The school understands that asbestos materials may occur in both natural and manufactured products and were once widely used in building, construction and equipment, particularly as a form of insulation or fire-retardant material. However, asbestos has now been recognised as posing a significant health hazard and its use has been outlawed. Despite this, considerable amounts of asbestos remain in many existing buildings, especially in older buildings, and so a duty of care is placed upon buildings owners under the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 to ensure that any asbestos that remains in their structures is identified and the risks properly and safely managed.

The school recognises that there are three main types of asbestos – Chrysotile, Amosite and Crocidolite. They are usually called white, brown and blue respectively. However, they cannot be identified by their colour and laboratory analysis is required.

Diseases

Most asbestos materials actually pose little risk unless they are disturbed. When disturbed, their fibres can be released into the atmosphere where they can be inhaled. Once in the lungs, the fibres will remain there for a long time and, eventually, can cause serious diseases such as:

- Mesothelioma – a cancer of the pleural and peritoneal lining considered to be exclusively related to asbestos exposure. By the time it is diagnosed, it is almost always fatal.
- Asbestosis – a scarring of the lung tissue, impairing the elasticity of the lung and hampering its ability to exchange gases.

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- Lung cancer – a malignant tumour of the bronchi, tumours growing through surrounding tissue, invading and often obstructing air passages.
- Diffuse pleural thickening – a non-malignant disease in which the lining of the lung becomes scarred.
- Symptoms of all of the above include shortness of breath and severe breathing difficulties.

In this school:

- A suitable asbestos inspection survey will be commissioned of the buildings and outbuildings by an independent expert surveyor.
- The results of the inspection will be recorded, identifying any parts of buildings where asbestos may be located and recording its position and condition in a suitable asbestos register. The register will be kept up to date to reflect any changes in condition.
- The risk of asbestos fibres being released into the air from the materials in any identified areas will be assessed, taking into account the materials condition and how likely they are to be damaged or disturbed.
- A management plan will be drawn up, stating which areas, if any, need asbestos to be sealed, encapsulated or, as a last resort, removed.
- The Asbestos Management plan will be uploaded onto Web Tracker.
- Where there is any doubt as to the risks posed by asbestos, then expert advice will always be sought and followed from a suitably qualified and competent source.
- Every effort will be made to ensure that the headteacher, governors, premises maintenance managers and staff, and teaching staff are made aware of the current asbestos status of the buildings and outbuildings.
- The condition of all asbestos-containing materials or materials suspected of containing asbestos will be re-inspected/monitored at agreed intervals to ascertain that there has been no damage or deterioration. Where damage or deterioration is found, the asbestos-containing material will be reassessed and repaired or removed as appropriate.
- Any work on asbestos-containing materials will only be undertaken by appropriate people after a full risk assessment.
- Surveys and work on asbestos will be undertaken by competent people only. For example, only contractors licensed by the HSE will be used for the removal of asbestos-containing materials. Where work is low risk and is assessed as likely to be sporadic or of low intensity, other contractors may be used, but only after a suitable risk assessment. On no account will asbestos be disturbed, removed or disposed of by in-house staff or by contractors without the appropriate certification, notification and protective equipment or precautions.
- Everyone who needs to know about the presence of asbestos will be alerted and no one will be allowed to plan, design or start work that could disturb asbestos unless the correct.
- Contractors Induction Pack to be issued to all contractors visiting the school site. This pack to be kept updated and including information regarding any Asbestos found located at Eversley Primary School.

Management duties

The Headteacher and Facilities Manager in this school have a duty to:

- Ensure that all staff are aware of and implement this policy and comply with the requirements of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 and the associated approved code of practice.
- Prevent the exposure of employees or contractors to asbestos wherever possible.
- Keep the asbestos management plan and asbestos register up to date to show any changes that could affect the risk assessment.
- Protect, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety at work of all maintenance staff and contractors by ensuring that no maintenance work is carried out without prior reference to the asbestos management plan and asbestos register.
- Ensure that, if asbestos is removed, it is removed by a suitably qualified and competent specialist contractor and that asbestos waste is properly disposed of in sealed, labelled containers with consignment notes.
- Ensure that the school makes no use of any product that contains asbestos.
- Make adequate resources and training available to staff to enable compliance.

Staff duties

The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 includes a requirement on anyone to co-operate as far as is necessary to allow the duty holder to comply with the Regulations. Staff (and volunteers) in this organisation therefore have a duty to:

- Familiarise themselves with this policy.
- Report any suspicion or discovery of a substance that could be asbestos to their line-manager or supervisor immediately.
- Ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken prior to any construction or maintenance work being carried out, including planning all works with reference to the existing asbestos register and management plan.