

## 11. ASBESTOS

### Asbestos in Schools

**Most Bracknell Forest schools contain some asbestos in one form or another and this was commonly in use as a building material into 1980s.. If you are considering undertaking work in your school that may disturb or be adjacent to an asbestos containing material (ACM), or you believe that an ACM has been damaged in some way, then contact Construction and Maintenance in the first instance.**

### Recent Legislation

The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012 came into force on 6 April 2012, updating previous asbestos regulations to take account of the European Commission's view that the UK had not fully implemented the EU Directive on exposure to asbestos (Directive 2009/148/EC). In practice the changes are fairly limited. They mean that some types of non-licensed work with asbestos now have additional requirements, i.e. notification of work, medical surveillance and record keeping. **All other requirements remain unchanged.**

The Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations place new responsibilities on duty holders to manage asbestos risks within their premises. Under normal circumstances in health and safety law, the duty holder is the employer. This means that ultimate responsibility for health and safety lies with the employer, being the Local Authority or, in the case of foundation and voluntary aided schools, the governing body.



However, the Asbestos regulations are slightly different in that the duty holder is defined as 'anyone having a role for controlling the maintenance or repair of premises'. In schools therefore, the duty holder is the Headteacher.

### Responsibility of Duty Holder

Duty Holders are required to carry out three main tasks:

- determine whether the premises have asbestos or Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)
- assess if those ACM pose any risks to health due to their location and condition
- if ACM are present and could lead to the accidental exposure to asbestos dust/fibres then, either
  - arrange for its safe removal, or
  - take action to manage any risks that may be present

### Where Asbestos is Likely to be Found

If the premises built or refurbished between 1950 and 1980, it is likely that there will be, or has been, asbestos somewhere within (in fact some types of asbestos were not fully banned until 1999). Some examples of where asbestos may be found are as follows:

- fire breaks in ceiling voids using sprayed asbestos and asbestos packing

- some types of thermal insulation of pipes and boilers
- insulating boards for fire protection\*, thermal gain, partitioning and ducts
- some ceiling tiles, vinyl or thermoplastic floor tiles
- millboard, paper and paper products used for the insulation of electrical equipment, including fire-proof facing on wood fibre-board
- asbestos cement products, which can be fully or semi-compressed into flat or corrugated sheets largely used as roofing and wall cladding
- other asbestos cement products include rainwater goods and water tanks;
- certain textured coatings
- bitumen roofing material



\*Sprayed asbestos may also be present and was formerly used as fire protection in ducts, firebreaks, panels, partitions, ceiling panels and around structural steelwork.

### **Asbestos Surveys**

A record of the ACMs should be held on the premises and what has been done to remove or neutralise these materials. Please contact Construction and Maintenance if the Headteacher does not have a copy of this report

### **Follow up Action**

Even with the results of this schedule, some areas may still be unclear. If there are any concerns that the buildings still contain asbestos, it must be assumed that they do.

Providing the material is in good condition and there are no plans to disturb it e.g. by undertaking works in the area where the asbestos is present, the regulations allow no further action other than to monitor the condition of the material.

Where removal of the asbestos or ACM is necessary, Construction and Maintenance will advise the Headteacher immediately and advise them of any financial implications.

### **New Building Work**

If there are plans to undertake works in an area where asbestos is present or assumed to be present, then the contractor appointed to perform the works must be informed of the risk and provide them with access to the asbestos register.

### **Summary**

Wherever ACM are identified or suspected, refer to the asbestos report for location, type and recommended action. Advice must be acted upon and an asbestos licensed contractor appointed to undertake the work. Please contact Construction and Maintenance for further guidance.

**CHECKLIST SUMMARY OF ACTION TO MEET NEW ASBESTOS REGULATIONS**

<b>FIND</b>	Check if materials containing asbestos are present.
<b>CONDITION</b>	Check what condition the material is in
<b>PRESUME</b>	Assume the material contains asbestos unless there is strong evidence that it does not
<b>IDENTIFY</b>	If there are plans to have maintenance or refurbishment of the building carried out, or the material is in poor condition, Headteachers may wish to arrange for the material to be sampled and identified by a specialist.
<b>RECORD</b>	Record the location and condition of the material on a plan or drawing.
<b>ASSESS</b>	Decide if the condition or the location means the material is likely to be disturbed.
<b>PLAN</b>	Prepare and implement a plan to manage these risks.

<b>Minor damage</b>	<b>Good condition</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The material should be repaired and/or encapsulated.</li> <li>• The condition of the material should be monitored at regular intervals. Where practical, the material should be labelled.</li> <li>• Inform the contractor and any other worker likely to work on or disturb the material.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The condition of the material should be monitored at regular intervals.</li> <li>• Where practical the location of the material should be labelled.</li> <li>• Inform the contractor and any other worker likely to work on or disturb the material.</li> </ul>
<b>Poor condition</b>	<b>Asbestos disturbed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asbestos in poor condition should be removed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asbestos likely to be disturbed should be removed</li> </ul>

All asbestos work in schools, including repairs, removals, encapsulation, labelling and sampling must be undertaken by specialist consultants and contractors, which will be appointed by Construction and Maintenance in respect of all maintained schools. Schools must not implement asbestos works themselves.

Head of Maintenance

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Further advice can be found on:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/>