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Lanesend Primary School

Asbestos Policy Health and Safety Policy

Signed: Date:
(Headteacher)

Signed: Date:
(Chair of Governors)

Review Date: December 2018

Reviewed By: Mark Elliott (Health and Safety Consultant)

Lanesend Primary **Asbestos Policy**

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is the generic term for a group of naturally occurring, fibrous minerals with high tensile strength, flexibility, and resistance to heat, chemicals, and electricity.

In the construction industry, asbestos is found in installed products such as sprayed-on fireproofing, pipe insulation, floor tiles, cement pipe and sheet, roofing felts and shingles, ceiling tiles, fire-resistant drywall, drywall joint compounds, and acoustical products. Because very few asbestos containing products are being installed today, most worker exposures occur during the removal of asbestos and the renovation and maintenance of buildings and structures containing asbestos.

What are the dangers of asbestos exposure?

Asbestos fibres enter the body when a person inhales or ingests airborne particles that become embedded in the tissues of the respiratory or digestive systems. Exposure to asbestos can cause disabling or fatal. The symptoms of these diseases generally do not appear for 20 or more years after initial exposure.

What construction activities may involve Asbestos?

- Demolishing or salvaging structures where asbestos is present.
- Removing or encapsulating asbestos-containing material
- Constructing, altering, repairing, maintaining, or renovating asbestos-containing structures or substrates.
- Cleaning up asbestos spills/emergencies.
- Transporting, disposing, storing, containing, and housekeeping involving asbestos or asbestos-containing
- Products on a construction site may include asphalt roof coatings, cements, and mastics.
- Contaminated land - Asbestos containing materials may have been dumped in fields where fences are to be erected – Brownfield sites

What do I do if I suspect asbestos is present?

Where employees suspect asbestos related material is present, they must stop work immediately must be reported to the responsible person Head teacher, who will investigate and arrange for a sample to be tested by a competent specialist. The responsible person will advise when employees can resume work in that area.

If the asbestos is to be removed

This is to be carried out using licensed contractors and waste disposal contractors.

If the asbestos cannot be removed

Then a suitable risk assessment is to be undertaken, identifying all necessary measures to prevent employees and others from exposure, using specialist advisors. For further information, please refer to the Health and Safety Policy.

