



Date: Autumn 18

# Asbestos Awareness

Watcombe Primary School  
Review Autumn 2019



## Policy Statement

Buildings built, owned or occupied by Torbay Council were built or refurbished at a time when the use of Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) in their construction was prolific. It is possible that personnel who carry out works on or within these buildings will encounter asbestos.

We know that Watcombe Primary School have areas which contain asbestos containing materials (ACM). It is our intention that no-one will be harmed by these materials. With many buildings that contain asbestos it follows that personnel who carry out work may be at risk during refurbishment or maintenance related works. Other people not normally associated with the building trades may also inadvertently disturb asbestos e.g. computer installers particularly those carrying out cabling works, fire alarm and intruder alarm installers, window blind fitters, telecommunications engineers or building users generally. It is our intention that no-one so far as reasonably practicable will be harmed by ACM's whilst working at Watcombe Primary School.

Watcombe Primary School have an annual asbestos re-inspection check performed annually by Resource & Environmental Consultants Ltd during the summer term. The report is shared with the Headteacher, SBM, Caretaker and kept electronically on the school server located in 'shared' and is available to all members of staff and contractors. All contractors working in these areas will be given access to the policy and there is a drawing highlighting the ACM's in red. Please see appendix 1.

## 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 were fairly limited. They mean that some types of non-licensed work with asbestos now have additional requirements, ie notification of work, medical surveillance and record keeping. All other requirements remain unchanged.

### Watcombe Primary School duties under the regulations include:

- If existing asbestos containing materials are in good condition and are not likely to be damaged, they may be left in place; their condition monitored and managed to ensure they are not disturbed.
- If you're responsible for maintenance of non-domestic premises, you have a '[duty to manage](#)' the asbestos in them, to protect anyone using or working in the premises from the risks to health that exposure to asbestos causes.
- If you want to do any building or maintenance work in premises, or on plant or equipment that might contain asbestos, you need to identify where it is and its type and condition; assess the risks, and manage and control these risks.
- The requirements for licensed work remain the same: in the majority of cases, work with asbestos needs to be done by a [licensed contractor](#). This work includes most asbestos removal, all work with sprayed asbestos coatings and asbestos lagging and most work with asbestos insulation and asbestos insulating board (AIB).
- If you are carrying out non-licensed asbestos work, this still requires [effective controls](#).
- The control limit for asbestos is 0.1 asbestos fibres per cubic centimetre of air (0.1 f/cm<sup>3</sup>). The control limit is not a 'safe' level and exposure from work activities involving asbestos must be reduced to as far below the control limit as possible.

- [Training](#) is mandatory for anyone liable to be exposed to asbestos fibres at work. This includes maintenance workers and others who may come into contact with or disturb asbestos (eg cable installers), as well as those involved in asbestos removal work.
- From 6 April 2012, some non-licensed work needs to be notified to the relevant enforcing authority.
- From 6 April 2012, brief written records should be kept of non-licensed work, which has to be notified eg copy of the notification with a list of workers on the job, plus the level of likely exposure of those workers to asbestos. This does not require air monitoring on every job, if an estimate of degree of exposure can be made based on experience of similar past tasks or published guidance.
- By April 2015, all workers/self-employed doing notifiable non-licensed work with asbestos must be under health surveillance by a Doctor. Workers who are already under health surveillance for licensed work need not have another medical examination for non-licensed work. BUT medicals for notifiable non-licensed work are not acceptable for those doing licensed work.
- Some modernisation of language and changes to reflect other legislation, eg the prohibition section has been removed, as the prohibition of supply and use of asbestos is now covered by REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals Regulations 2006).

Source: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/enforcement.htm>

### Key Facts - Asbestos related disease

There are four main diseases associated with inhalation of asbestos fibres.

- Mesothelioma - a form of cancer mainly affecting the lining of the lungs
- Asbestos related lung cancer
- Asbestosis - a non-malignant scarring of the lung tissue
- Non-malignant pleural disease (diffuse pleural thickening and pleural plaques)

The latest figures for diseases associated with occupational exposure to asbestos many years ago, are summarised in the following table\*.

Deaths from mesothelioma (Mesothelioma register 2013)	2538
Deaths from asbestosis without mention of mesothelioma (Asbestosis register 2013)	477
Newly assessed cases of asbestosis (IIDB 2014)	985
Newly assessed cases of diffuse pleural thickening (IIDB 2014)	425
Estimated number of cases of non malignant pleural disease reported to specialist physicians (THOR/SWORD 2014)	580

\*In addition it is estimated that there are about as many asbestos-related lung cancer deaths each year as there are mesothelioma deaths.

## **Support**

Further information can be found at:

- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/1143.htm> - Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012. Approved Code of Practice and Guidance
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg210.htm> - Asbestos Essentials A task manual for building, maintenance and allied trades of non-licensed asbestos work
- <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg210.htm> - A task manual for building, maintenance and allied trades of non-licensed asbestos work

## **Breaches of this policy**

Breaches of this policy must be reported to the Headteacher. Where anyone is found to be in breach of the policy disciplinary action will be considered. The disciplinary procedure will apply if employees are continually in breach of this policy, which forms part of terms and conditions of employment.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed within the first 12 months of implementation and there after bi-annually.

