

# Painsley Catholic College Asbestos Emergency Procedure

It is possible that, even after every precaution has been taken, employees or contractors may come across 'hidden' asbestos when working in a building or on plant. The emergency procedure to be followed in the event of unexpected exposure/suspected exposure to asbestos material is as follows. The school will ensure that:

- 1. The work is stopped immediately.**
- 2. The area is evacuated and further access prohibited. Leave all contaminated material in the area. A notice will be displayed preventing access to the area. No attempt should be made to clean the area.**
- 3. Report the incident immediately to:**
  - a) The Principal.**
  - b) The Asbestos Management Team within SCC on 07773792098 (01782 749910 for out-of-hours incidents).**
  - c) The health and safety advisor (who will notify the HSE if exposure is likely to have occurred). Telephone 01785 355777.**
- 4. Complete an accident investigation report form.**

The Asbestos Surveyor will arrange for the County Council's asbestos consultant to attend site to assess the situation, to take samples of suspect material for analysis and to undertake appropriate air monitoring. If samples contain asbestos, the area will need to be locked off until a specialist contractor licensed by the HSE can be employed to remove or seal the asbestos containing materials and an environmental clean undertaken. The area must not be re-occupied until it is confirmed to be safe by the analyst.

Where persons are contaminated with a suspected asbestos material they should be asked to remove their outer garments carefully, wash off any dust contamination to skin carefully, and be supplied with suitable coveralls to maintain modesty. Any towels used must be treated as contaminated asbestos waste and bagged up for later disposal. Clothing should be bagged up for disposal as asbestos waste or for cleaning at a specialist asbestos laundry. The room in which the asbestos-contaminated persons stay, and in which they remove clothing is also likely to become contaminated with dust. This will also apply to any areas through which they have passed. It is essential that no attempt be made to clean up using vacuum cleaners etc. The areas must be kept isolated with doors and windows etc. kept closed.

The advice of the Occupational Health Unit must be obtained where employees have been exposed to asbestos. Where considered necessary, the exposed person will be referred for medical examination and an x-ray. The procedure will not confirm the presence of asbestos but it will establish the current state of health of the person subjected to the suspected exposure. The medical record of this examination will be kept for 40 years and a copy will be made available for the suspected exposed person.