

Suffolk Maintained Schools: HSE Asbestos Management inspections in Schools

The HSE has announced they will be carrying out a programme of asbestos inspections to schools in England, Scotland and Wales this academic year.

The inspections will be assessing how schools are managing the risks from asbestos within the school estate and meeting the 'duty to manage' (DTM) requirements under Regulation 4 of the [Control of Asbestos Regulations 2021](#) (CAR).

The regulations place duties on those with responsibility for the maintenance of work premises, **including schools**, to manage the risk from asbestos.

Please note – not all schools / educational settings will be inspected, but please follow the best practice and legal obligations below in any case and be aware that your premises might be visited.

Who will be carrying out the inspections?

The visits will be carried out by HSE inspectors, who will contact the school before visiting to arrange a suitable date and time for the inspection.

They will need to speak to someone with knowledge of how asbestos is managed by the school and may also ask to see certain documentation in advance of the visit e.g., your asbestos register and management plan. All Suffolk maintained schools will have access to the following documents:

- [Asbestos – site emergency plan](#) – Suffolk County Council document.
- [Strategic Asbestos Management Plan](#) – Suffolk County Council document.
- [Site Specific Asbestos Management Plan](#) – Suffolk County Council document.
- [Asbestos Site Work Signing-In Log](#) – Suffolk County Council document.

In addition, the information below is highly useful and should be used in conjunction with the documents above:

- [Asbestos in Schools](#) – HSE guidance
- [Managing asbestos in schools – FAQs](#) – HSE guidance
- [Asbestos Health and Safety](#) – HSE guidance.
- [Managing asbestos in your school or college](#) – Department of Education guidance.
- ['When an Inspector Calls'](#) – HSE guidance

What should schools do to prepare for these inspections?

In advance of the inspections, we are asking that schools review their current arrangements and check that they are meeting their duties under CAR and of Suffolk County Council's

Strategic Asbestos Management Plan (SAMP). Both the regulations and the SAMP include requirements to:

- take reasonable steps to find out if there are asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) in the school premises, and if so, the amount, where it is and what condition it is in **(ensure good liaison with your Property Account Manager and your SHaW Advisor and ensure your knowledge of your site-specific plan)**
- presume materials contain asbestos unless there is strong evidence that they do not **(evidence from your site-specific plan)**
- make, and keep up to date, a record of the location and condition of any ACMs – or materials which are presumed to contain asbestos **(your site-specific plan)**
- assess the risk of anyone being exposed to fibres from the materials identified
- prepare an asbestos management plan (AMP) that sets out in detail how the risks from these materials will be managed **(SAMP and the site emergency plan)**
- take the necessary steps to put the plan into action **(show evidence that your emergency plan will work or has worked)**
- periodically review and monitor the plan and the arrangements, and act on the findings, so the plan and arrangements remain relevant and up to date **(ensure your Plan is up-to-date and that your liaison with your Property Account Manager is recorded)**
- provide information on the location and condition of the materials to anyone who is liable to work on, or disturb them **(contractors and site signing in log – evidence of appropriate use, which may be cross referenced with other works documents).**

Any concerns, please contact [Nina Bickerton](#) (Suffolk Schools' SHaW Advisor) and / or your Property Account Manager.

8 November 2022