**Health & Safety Communication - WMHSG**

**HSE ASBESTOS INSPECTIONS - SCHOOLS**

**Programme of inspections**

You will be aware of the HSEs current programme of asbestos inspections in schools across England, Scotland and Wales; which commenced September 2022.

400 inspections have been planned, approximately a quarter have taken place, and it is currently intended that the programme concludes in March 2023.

The inspections are assessing how schools manage 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 2012 (CAR).

**Recent inspection visits undertaken in West Midlands**

Following recent inspection visits undertaken by the HSE to schools in our areas it was thought useful to share some of their observations and recommendations.

**HSE observation, advice, and recommendations to schools:**

* Have a covering sheet at the front of the on-site Asbestos Management folder to make clear the:
* details of the Duty Holder,
* who the responsible staff are, and;
* who would deputise if designated staff/managers were unavailable to deal with asbestos related queries.
* Adapt signing sheets for contractors undertaking works to include a question specifically asking if they (as well as any other sub-contractors) have received Asbestos Awareness Training.
* Ensure that schools have an emergency procedure in place in the event of an unplanned disturbance of asbestos containing material (or suspected material), which should include what actions the school would take in controlling the risks involved. This procedure should be documented.

**Additional sources of information/resources about managing asbestos in schools:**

* HSE’s guidance on what to expect [when an inspector calls](https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc14.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=school-inspections-22&utm_term=inspections-1&utm_content=education-6-sep-22).
* House of Commons Works and Pensions Committee report from April 2022

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5802/cmselect/cmworpen/560/report.html#heading-5>

* [Asbestos in schools](https://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/asbestos.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=school-inspections-22&utm_term=resources-1&utm_content=education-6-sep-22)
* [Managing asbestos in schools – FAQs](https://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/asbestos-faqs.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=school-inspections-22&utm_term=resources-1&utm_content=education-6-sep-22)
* [Managing asbestos in buildings – a brief guide](https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg223.htm?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=school-inspections-22&utm_term=resources-3&utm_content=education-6-sep-22)
* [Department for education – managing asbestos in your school or college](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asbestos-management-in-schools)