



Diocese of Brentwood

School Buildings News

ASBESTOS

HSE inspecting asbestos management in schools

The HSE [announced](#) in June 2022 that from September it would send inspectors to schools to check asbestos management. One school in the Diocese was visited in November and despite having documentation in place was found to have contravened health and safety law. The inspector reported:

“The asbestos management plan contained basic information, such as who held responsibilities within the school for asbestos management, however it lacked the necessary detail, such as what those individual responsibilities were, how frequently the condition of asbestos would be checked and by whom, for example.

In order to comply with this regulation, you must ensure that you review your asbestos management plan ensuring the following is included:

- Identify who is responsible for managing asbestos (including details of those responsible for covering annual leave, sick leave etc.)
- Any plans for any work to be carried out on asbestos, such as removal, encapsulating etc.
- A schedule for monitoring materials condition”

The school has complied by updating its asbestos management plan appropriately, but it will need to pay a fee to the HSE because of the contravention.

The Education Service has arranged for local asbestos consultant [Airborne Environmental Consultants \(AEC\)](#) to review our schools’ asbestos documents. When Alan Procter of AEC contacts your school office, please do email your scanned information as requested.



Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd



ENERGY EFFICIENCY - FUNDING

DfE grants schools extra energy efficiency funding

On 6 December, the DfE announced additional capital funding for schools to improve energy efficiency.

Links

[DfE News Item](#)

[DfE Funding Information](#)

[DfE Spreadsheet with amounts per school](#)

[DfE Guidance on Energy Efficiency](#)

The Diocese’s 83 schools will receive £1,863,131 between them. The average that our secondary schools will receive is £47,919 with the largest grant being £69,782 and the smallest, £32,118. The average that our primary schools will receive is £16,612 with the largest grant being £22,043 and the smallest, £12,387.

The funds will be received directly by schools in December or January as an additional Devolved Formula Capital payment.

Schools might consider paying for an energy audit as this should identify projects such as LED lighting, Savawatt devices, improved insulation, or photovoltaic cells that the funding can be usefully spent on.

Energy consultants such as [Inspired Efficiency](#) will be able to arrange audits.



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VASCA Funding 2023

Funding Application Forms sent to schools

The Diocese's voluntary aided schools have been sent a form to apply for VASCA capital funding. VA Schools that have not received the form should contact David Gatheral.

A prioritisation criterion has been introduced this year to take into account any energy efficiency benefits of a project.

The prioritisation criteria are:

- 0-5 points: Is this a condition issue?
- 0-10 points: Will project prevent school closure?
- 0-10 points: Health & safety impact
- 0-5 points: Will project help delivery of education?
- 0-5 points: *Energy efficiency benefits***
- 0-5 points: External perception
- 0-5 points: Value for Money
- 0-5 points: Other issues not covered above.

Deadline for applications is 12 January 2023

Land & Buildings Return

Academy property data submission to DfE

The DfE has declared the web-based Land & Buildings Collection Tool will go live on 17 January 2023 with a submission deadline of 21 February 2023.

David Gatheral will be the Diocese approver.

Links

[Guidance for academies](#)

[How to make occupancy changes](#)

[Download Spreadsheet Workbook](#)

VASCA School Laboratory Programme

Funding Application Forms sent to schools

Last year, the Diocese committed to a programme of laboratory refurbishment projects in our secondary schools. This summer we completed the refurbishment of three laboratories and a preparatory room at Holy Family School in Waltham Forest.

School staff and pupils have been delighted by the results.



The project was delivered on time and to budget by consultant PCH Associates and contractor SDT.