



20 April 2016

Response to Concerns on Artificial Turf

Dear Members of the Diocesan Community:

Recent reports on possible health hazards due to lead content in artificial turf have understandably sparked renewed anxiety over the School's decision to install 4G artificial turf. The School offers answers to the following questions in order to make few important distinctions with regards to the specific turf we plan to install:

- 1. Why does some artificial turf contain lead, and how much does it contain?**
The artificial turf featured in recent reports contains 24.2 parts per million (ppm) of lead. Not only is its lead content substantially lower than the standard limit of 1000 ppm; it is also lower than the 100 ppm limit proposed by some environmental campaigns. Lead content is nonetheless a legitimate cause for concern. Critically, however, lead exists only in some artificial turf due to rubber pallet infills, which are required solely for longer grass length (at or beyond 60mm).
- 2. Will the turf to be installed at DBS contain lead?** Our artificial turf will have shorter grass length of 30 to 32mm, comparable to the kind found at other local schools. Our turf will thus not require rubber pallet infills, and will therefore contain little to no lead.
- 3. How will the school follow up on these concerns?** The School is committed to two further actions: Firstly, the School will conduct our own tests through independent sources to verify the reported lead content of the turf we propose to use. Secondly, the supplier will submit a test report related to lead content to our office for reference.

The School considers every possible health hazard seriously, and we wish to reassure all members of the Diocesan family that our first priority remains the health and safety of our students. We have taken, and will continue to take, exceptional care to ensure that our artificial turf is of the highest quality possible. Finally, the School will await the return of lab results before taking further action.

Yours sincerely,

R.K.Y. Cheng
Headmaster