

# Health & Safety

## Gas masks and Brodie helmets

This could be one to share with colleagues elsewhere in your school. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has found that most Second World War gas masks contain asbestos, often in the more dangerous blue form. There is no easy way of determining whether or not a gas mask does contain asbestos, so the following advice is given:

- Children and teachers should not handle gas masks;
- If you have gas masks in school, they should be double bagged and sealed with tape, labelled and securely stored;
- Disposal should be at a local authority licensed site. Alternatively, a licensed contractor can be employed to make the artefact safe for display.
- The majority of World War One "Brodie" helmets have also been found to contain asbestos. They should be treated in the same way as outlined above.
- Replica gas masks and helmets that do not contain asbestos are available.



For more information about asbestos, visit the HSE's website [1].

### Reference

- [1] [www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/index.htm)  
(accessed June 2014).