

Dear Parents,

All schools on the Isle of Man will be tested for radon during the summer term to bring the Isle of Man in line with other parts of the British Isles.

The simple test will see a handful of plastic detectors placed in ground floor rooms and basements during the summer term before the data is analysed.

This test was last carried out in 1989 and no problems were found.

The action is part of the Government's legal obligation to limit people's exposure to radon and is being supported by the UK Health Security Agency. If you have any questions, this might help – link to FAQs

Your radon questions, answered.

What is radon?	Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas, which is found - in some quantity - in all buildings. Exposure to high levels over a long period of time can lead to health issues.
Why test schools?	Simply to check that no children or staff are being exposed to high levels of radon gas. A similar survey carried out in 1989 found no problems at that time.
How does the test work?	A number of coaster sized plastic detectors will be placed in ground floor rooms and basements for three months, before the data is analysed.
What happens if an issue is found?	If a problem is found it could necessitate some small scale remedial work.
Why is it happening now?	DEFA has a legal obligation to take a series of actions to limit people's exposure to radon due to recently updated health and safety legislation.
Are children at more risk than adults?	No. The general pattern is broadly similar to that in adults.
What is the harm or risk from radon?	There is compelling evidence that long-term exposure to radon can increase the risk of lung cancer.

Got another question? This should help - <https://www.ukradon.org/faq/#>