



Asthma Policy

Rationale:

- Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

Aims:

- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

Implementation:

- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication, however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall. In the event that the relevant training has not occurred for a member of staff who has a child in their class diagnosed with asthma, the Principal will organise time for the relevant staff member to complete the "Asthma First Aid Management for Education Staff" online as soon as practicable after the student enrolls, and preferably before the student's first day at school.
- All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at <http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/vic/education-and-training/for-victorian-schools/victorian-schools-resources/school-resources> (Attachment 1)
- All children must also have a Student Health Management Plan completed by the parents and filed at school. (Attachment 2).
- All children with asthma must also have a Camp Asthma Management Plan complete before attending the camp and all staff should be familiar with this.
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times, to provide an Asthma Action Plan, to inform the school in writing if their child's medical condition, insofar as it relates to asthma and the potential for an asthma flare up/attack, changes and if relevant, provide an updated Asthma Action Plan and to provide an up to date photo for the Asthma Action Plan when that plan is provided to the school and when it is reviewed.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices in all first-aid kits, including kits on excursions and camps. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in each first aid kit, along with steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks.
- The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.



- A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with the School's Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.
- It is mandatory for all spacers used in schools to be single use. As such children will be required to provide their own spacer at school. If the school spacer is used, it will be given to the student and an invoice for replacement will be sent to the parents.
- Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.
- **Emergency Response**
If no plan is available children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second 4-minute wait period, or if it is the child's first known attack. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- All Asthma medication and spacers are stored in the General Office and are easily accessible. Individual Asthma Plans are stored in a folder marked 'Asthma Plans' in the Office.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed annually as part of the school's review cycle.

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

15th May 2023

