



ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY & PROCEDURES

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 before or after exercise).
- Professional development will be provided for staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Information such as fact sheets from Asthma Foundation Victoria will also be displayed in the first aid room and distributed to staff each year.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administration of a reliever puffer and spacer devices such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol and Bricanyl. 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. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
- The school will provide a reliever puffer (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices held in first-aid room and included in kits on excursions and camps.
- All students with asthma should submit to the school, 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 www.asthma.org.au
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference.



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- Asthma plans will be held in an 'Asthma Management' folder in the First Aid room or staffroom.
- 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.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and content levels.
- 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 Vic Government School's Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
- 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.
- 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.



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EVALUATION:

- Term review of procedures and practices by First Aid Office Staff
- Term review of First Aid notification records
- Term review of student's management plans and needs.
- Yearly Audit of practices against Asthma-Friendly Schools Recognition checklist in April.
- This policy will be formally reviewed by School Council every three (3) years.

This policy was ratified by School Council on ____ / ____ / 2015.

Signed by **Principal**

Signed by **School Council President**