



MANAGING 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.

Aim:

To support students in managing their asthma as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

Implementation:

- Each semester, professional learning will be provided for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Key 'response' information will be displayed in the staffroom and sick bay.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication; however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly before or after exercise).
- 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 pediatrician. The appropriate asthma plan pro-forma is available at www.asthma.org.au
- Asthma Plans will be attached to the student's records for reference and stored centrally in the Asthma Folder in Sick Bay and in the Medical Alerts folder in the DisPlan Box in each classroom.
- 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 school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin 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 Coordinator is responsible for checking the expiry dates on all related medications eg inhalers.
- If a student does not have their own spacer at school a disposable spacer will be used and issued to the family (at a replacement cost)
- All personal 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 (single) puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff. After waiting 4 minutes, if necessary repeat the cycle and administer 4 more (single) puffs.
- 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 a child suffers an asthma attack.

Evaluation:

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

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

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