

ASTHMA

POLICY

Rationale:

Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers the airways narrow, making it hard for the student to breathe. Symptoms of asthma commonly include coughing, tightness in the chest, shortness of breath/rapid breathing, and wheezing. Many students have mild asthma with very minor problems and rarely need medication. However, some will need medication on a daily basis and frequently require additional medication at school (particularly before or after vigorous exercise). Most students can control their asthma by taking regular medication.

Aim:

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

Implementation:

- The school aims to be recognised by the Asthma Foundation of Victoria as an Asthma Friendly School and the school will endeavour to maintain this recognition.
- At least every three years, the school will provide all staff with training to educate school staff on how to manage asthma in the school setting, including how to assess and manage asthma in an asthma emergency.
- Asthma emergency response information will be displayed in the First Aid Room.
- Parents of students with asthma will be requested to complete an annual written School Asthma Action Plan, ideally completed in consultation with their medical/health practitioner. The School Asthma Action Plans are available from The Asthma Foundation at www.asthma.org.au.
- Asthma plans will be kept both in the child's classroom and in the administration area.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication with them at school at all times.
- The school will provide staff trained to administer reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin and spacer devices.
- A reliever puffer will be available 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. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- Children suffering asthma attacks will be treated in accordance with their Asthma Action Plan.
- If there is no Asthma Action Plan provided by parents/guardians, school staff will use the standard Asthma First Aid Plan.
- The school will endeavour to reduce asthma triggers by carefully managing grounds and buildings works as appropriate.

Links and Resources:

- [DET's Advisory Guide Asthma Information](#)
- [Asthma Foundation](#)

Evaluation:

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

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

November 2017