

# ASTHMA POLICY

## Rationale

Asthma is a disease of the airways; symptoms of an asthma attack can include but are not limited to shortness of breath, wheezing, tightness in the chest, a dry and persistent cough and difficulty speaking. Asthma affects approximately one in ten Australian children. Staff members are 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
- Meet the duty of care obligations specified by the Victorian Government's School Policy and Advisory Guide (SPAG).
- Ensure the whole school community (principals, staff, parents/carers and students) are aware of their obligations
- Provide the school community with the necessary information for best practice management of asthma.

## Implementation:

1. The school maintains its status as an Asthma Friendly School (Asthma Foundation Victoria) through adherence to the Asthma Friendly School criteria.
2. The school identifies and minimises triggers of asthma symptoms.
3. Upon enrolment, parents/carers of students with asthma are made aware of the school's Asthma Policy.
4. At the beginning of each school year parents are to provide a current written Asthma Plan that is attached to the students' records, or as soon as possible if their child is later diagnosed with asthma.
5. Parents/carers notify the school immediately of any changes to the child's asthma management plan.
6. The Asthma Foundation procedures are adhered to in the event of an asthma attack.
7. Staff undertake the Asthma Education training provided by Asthma Foundation Victoria every three years. Staff participate in an internal asthma briefing every six months.
8. The school maintains at least two asthma emergency kits containing reliever medication, two spacer devices, instructions outlining the first aid procedure and a record form. These kits are checked and maintained by the nominated first aid officer.
9. Staff are aware of the school's Asthma Policy and The Asthma Foundation Procedures.
10. Staff are aware of students with asthma under their care, and know where their medication is stored.
11. Staff know the location of Asthma Plans and asthma emergency kits.
12. The Physical Education teachers have current first aid, including asthma training.
13. Students without an asthma plan and/or who are not known asthma sufferers, and who experience asthma symptoms, are treated using The Asthma Foundation Procedures.
14. Copies of Asthma Plans and Confidential Medical Information forms are taken on all school camps.
15. Copies of Asthma Plans are taken on all excursions.
16. Parents/carers are contacted promptly if a student requires teacher assisted asthma medication and management.
17. Students with asthma are encouraged to take part in all activities safely.
18. Parents/carers provide details about their child's asthma on Confidential Medical Information forms for children attending School Council approved camps, or otherwise as required.
19. Students carry asthma medication and a spacer with them at all times (if self-managing their asthma).
20. Students are encouraged to inform staff if they experience asthma symptoms or if they have self-administered any asthma medication.

## Appendices

[Asthma first aid flow chart](#)

[Asthma care plan for schools](#)

## Evaluation

The School Council will be responsible for the review of the Asthma Policy within the life of the School Strategic Plan.

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

May 2014