

ASTHMA

POLICY

Rationale:

- Asthma affects more and more children, teenagers and adults each year. Therefore it is important 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:

- 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.
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference. Copies of the plans will be kept in a folder in the 1st Aid room.
- 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 **school** 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 section 4.5.7.3 of the SOTF Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication, *including spacers are for individual use only.*
- As per the 'Asthma Victoria' guidelines, a new **school** spacer will be used for each new asthma case.
- In the event of a **school** spacer being used, the parents will be charged the cost of a replacement (\$8.00) and the used spacer will become the property of the child.
- 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.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

Parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring that their child's asthma medication is up to date
- Ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.
- Ensuring their child(ren) have an up to date 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
- Completing a new Asthma Plan at the beginning of each new year. If a new plan is not submitted by the end of February, the school will follow the Asthma Foundation policy and old asthma plans will become obsolete.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed every three years.
- Ratified at School Council: February 2015

