



St Joseph's Primary School

ASTHMA POLICY

Child Safety at St Joseph's - We are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students, staff, and volunteers. As part of this commitment we have implemented the Victorian Child Safe Standards to help protect children and young people under the age of 18 from child abuse and neglect, including cultural safety for Indigenous children and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability.

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, support asthma sufferers, as effectively and efficiently as possible, at school and during activities such as excursions and camps.

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 after exercise).
- Professional development will be provided regularly for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the Staff room wall, in the student's classroom and in the Sick Bay.
- 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. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au
- Asthma plans will be kept in the Medical Management Plan folder stored in the Sick Bay.
- 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 medication (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl or Epaq 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.

- Staff Professional Development is provided per requirements
- The delegate staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- Kits will contain a disposable spacer for students to use and thrown away after 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 puff 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 this cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second – 4 minute wait period, or if is the child's first known attack.

EVALUATION:

This Policy will be evaluated in accordance with the School Improvement Plan under the sphere of Student Wellbeing.