



Warrnambool West
Primary School

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ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

POLICY STATEMENT

Asthma affects up to one in nine primary aged school children 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.

Purpose:

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

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 for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the first aid room wall
- 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 paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference and available in the first aid room
- 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, 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. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use
- The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates
- 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 refer to Victorian Schools Asthma Policy for Asthma First Aid. (Section 4.5.10.3 of the DET Victorian Government Schools' Reference Guide)
- 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.

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's annual review cycle.

Date: 16/03/2015	Responsibility: School Council	Review Date: March 2018
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