



WARRINGA PARK SCHOOL

Warringa Park School Asthma Policy

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 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.
- 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 action plans are located in each classrooms yellow folder and in the first aid room in the Asthma folder.
- Medical Alerts per classroom identifying all Asthmatics are located in the specialist yellow folders.
- 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.
- Blue Asthma Bags with current Ventolin and spacers are available and easily accessible to all staff. These Blue Asthma bags are to be signed out and accompany teachers on all camps and excursions.
- Clear written instructions on the current Victorian Schools Asthma Policy for Asthma First Aid is attached to the Blue Asthma Bags.
- The school nurse will be responsible for checking 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 the Victorian Government School's Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned with hot water after each use and air dried.
- 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 if necessary – 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.

- Our school will register as an asthma friendly school – www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au

Evaluation:

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

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

20/05/2019