

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 our College.

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 The Asthma Foundation 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 are on Compass
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at College at all times
- The College 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
- A delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates
- A nebuliser pump will not be used by the College 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 Vic Government School's Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices
- School to use disposable spacers at all times when administering Ventolin
- 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

- Our College will also follow the Asthma Foundation Schools Asthma Policy attached and the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide
- This policy is in accordance with ARC Guideline 9.2 Medical – 9.2.5 First Aid for Asthma

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in March 2018

Next review March 2021