

Philosophy

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.

Aim

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

Guidelines

- 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.
 - This professional development will be organised by the Principal
 - All students with asthma and using asthma medication must have an up to date (annual) written Asthma Management Plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician.
 - Asthma Management Plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au .
 - Parents are to provide asthma plans on enrolment or diagnosis which ever occurs first.
 - Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference and recorded on the Asthma Register.

 - Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.
 - The school will provide medication 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.
 - Trained First Aid office staff will be responsible for up keep of the kits.
 - The Trained First Aid office staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates annually.

 - The school does not provide a nebulizer pump. Parents/carers of students that may require the use of a nebulizer pump are required to meet with the Principal to discuss the matter to determine an appropriate Medical Management Plan.
 - All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use by staff administering the medication.

 - Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
 - Parents of children with asthma are asked to ensure that their child understands their Asthma Management Plan.
 - Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan with the time, date and dosage recorded.
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- 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.
 - Appropriate literature will be read for changing trends in asthma.
 - Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own asthma medication.

Evaluation

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