



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. 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.

Aims:

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

Implementation:

- All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements.
- Asthma plans will be kept in the first aid room and maintained by first aid co-ordinator.
- 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 and spacers devices in first-aid kits. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in each first aid kit.
- 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 children are to be sat down, reassured, and administered Ventolin as necessary. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.

Evaluation:

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