

# Asthma Management Policy

## Rationale

The prevalence of asthma in Australia is high by international standards. Asthma is a common reason for hospital admissions in children under 12 and in primary school aged children asthma is more common among boys than girls. People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs and when exposed to certain triggers their airways narrow making it hard for them to breathe. (*The Asthma Foundation Victoria 2012*).

## Aim

To ensure the efficient and timely management of asthma treatment be carried out in the correct manner in accordance with student management plans and to ensure ongoing education is provided to all staff.

## Implementation:

- To ensure every student with asthma, no matter the frequency, has an up to date Asthma Australia **Asthma Management Plan** that is :
  - completed by the student's medical/health practitioner in consultation with the parents/guardians.
  - Provided annually by the – doctor to the parents/guardians  
- parents/guardians to the school
- The Plan must include :
  - The prescribed medication taken :
    - on a regular basis
    - as premedication to exercise if the student is experiencing symptoms.
  - Emergency contact details
  - Business and after hours contact details of the student's medical/health practitioner
  - Details about deteriorating asthma including :
    - signs to recognise worsening symptoms
    - what to do during an attack
    - medication to be used
  - An asthma first aid section and should specify the use of a spacer and dosage:
    - 4 separate puffs of blue/grey reliever medication, with 4 breaths taken per puff
    - 2 separate doses of a Bricanyl inhaler (age 6 & over) or a Symbicort inhaler for over 12.
- Ensure all staff with a duty of care for students are trained to assess and manage an asthma emergency.
- Each student with asthma must supply an "indate" asthma medication clearly named that can be carried on them.
- The school will supply and maintain an adequate supply of bronchodilator medication reliever such as Ventolin, Asmol and Airomir, in the first aid kits.
- Teachers responsible for excursions and camps will collect copies of students Asthma Management Plan before departure.
- Clear written instructions on asthma management will be with every asthma kit located in the first aid store.
- The school will reduce asthma triggers by mowing grass, limiting dust and allergen plants, maintaining air conditioners etc.

## Related Policy

Medication Policy

## Evaluation

Evaluation of this policy will be completed annually or after a severe asthma attack.