



Asthma

Policy

RATIONALE:

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10% of all children and teenagers. Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs and when exposed to certain triggers, the airways narrow making it hard for the student to breathe.

AIM:

All students have quick access to reliever medication to reduce the severity of the asthma attack.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Laurimar Primary School recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy. The school also acknowledges the involvement and engagement with parents and carers of students and the ability of students to self-manage their asthma where appropriate.

To support families to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to asthma management, the school will:

- Obtain a written asthma plan for all students diagnosed with asthma upon enrolment or once diagnosed at the school and ensure they are updated annually, or if their child's asthma management plan changes
- Store medical information and medications appropriately
- Ensure that students feel safe and supported at school
- Support student healthcare needs
- Provide and maintain at least two asthma emergency kits, with an extra kit required for every 300 students in a large school
- Ensure that a minimum of 75% of staff undertake Emergency Asthma Management training, provided by The Asthma Foundation of Victoria

All school staff will have an understanding of the importance of daily asthma management and will:

- Be familiar with the school's asthma management policy
- Have good knowledge of the asthma first aid procedure
- Have a firm understanding of students with asthma and where their medication and personal spacers are stored
- Be familiar with the location of asthma emergency kits
- Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students
- Ensure that students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way
- Ensure that students with asthma can participate in activities safely and to their fullest abilities



Asthma

IMPLEMENTATION (cont'd):

It is expected that families attending this school will:

- Inform the school upon enrolment or once diagnosed, if their child has asthma
- Read the school's asthma management policy
- Provide a signed written asthma plan to the school, and ensure that it is updated annually or if their child's asthma management plan changes
- Provide a School Camp or Excursion Medical Update form as required
- Provide the school with their child's reliever medication along with a spacer (required for 'puffer' medication) for all times the child is attending the school, unless the child is carrying the medication and spacer for self-management purposes

ASTHMA FIRST AID:

- Follow the written first aid instructions on the student's Asthma Action/Care Plan. If no specific and signed instructions are available, the instructions are unclear, or the person does not have an Asthma Action/Care Plan, begin the first aid procedure immediately (**as authorised by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development**).

Call emergency assistance to attend (000) if:

- the person's asthma symptoms are severe
- the person suddenly stops breathing
- the person's asthma symptoms continue to worsen
- there is no Asthma Action/Care Plan for the person
- blue/grey reliever medication is not available
- you are unsure what is causing the breathing difficulty

EVALUATION:

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