

# CASTLEMAINE NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY

### RATIONALE

Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. It is important 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 and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

### GUIDELINES

1. 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.
2. Children and adults with mild asthma require medication rarely, however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication.
3. Professional development should be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom/sick bay wall and in classrooms.

### IMPLEMENTATION

1. All students with asthma must have a current yearly written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements completed by their treating medical practitioner. An appropriate asthma plan pro forma are available at [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
2. Asthma plans will be kept inside the class roll for reference and with the medication. A master copy of Student Asthma Management Plans will be kept in the sick bay.
3. Parents/guardians are responsible at all times for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school and on camps and excursions.
4. The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administration 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. This medication is for emergency use only.
5. 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.
6. The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking expiry dates of reliever puffer in first aid kits on the first day of each term.
7. Class teachers will be responsible for checking expiry dates of students' reliever puffers that are kept in the classrooms. Parents will be notified if the date has expired and asked to purchase a new reliever puffer.
8. Staff will administer asthma medication via a disposable spacer.
9. Staff will respond immediately when any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
10. Teachers will ensure that puffers and spacers are taken on camps and excursions.
11. Children suffering asthma attacks will be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.

12. 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. (Reliever puffers are kept in all first aid bags). 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.
13. Parents will be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
14. Class teachers will record in the booklets stored in the classroom with the medication, the details of reliever puffer medication administered to children.
15. Teachers are ultimately responsible for the management of a student's health conditions at any given time during school hours and will make appropriate decisions to ensure this. Within this, the school also recognizes that both parents and students are able to contribute to managing their health conditions and should be encouraged to do so when appropriate.
16. This policy is to be sent to parents at the start of each school year.

#### REFERENCE

1. Asthma Australia: [www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/](http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/)
2. DET policy:  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/conditionasthma.aspx>

#### EVALUATION

This policy is to be reviewed triennially as part of the School Council's review cycle.

This policy was reviewed and ratified by School Council 2017.

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(Principal)

(President of School Council)

**Date: 2017**

**Review Cycle Date: 2020**