



ASTHMA POLICY

Rationale:

- People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers their airways narrow, making it hard for them to breathe.
- Asthma affects up to one-in-ten Australians. 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.

Aims:

- Cana staff will manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school and during school related activities.

Implementation:

- At the start of each school year, all staff will be instructed in First Aid procedures relating to asthma.
- Professional personnel from the Asthma Foundation of Victoria will train all staff members in asthma management. Such information will also be displayed in the First Aid room, classrooms and other areas around the school.
- All students with asthma must have an up-to-date School Asthma Management plan (consistent with Asthma Foundation of Victoria's requirements), completed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate Asthma plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au and Cana website. These plans will be kept within the First Aid room.
- The staff and school community will be made aware of each student with asthma.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their child has an adequate supply of appropriate in-date asthma medication (including a spacer – where applicable) with them at school at all times.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices located in the First Aid Room and First Aid kits on excursions and camps.
- A First Aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- A nebuliser pump will not be used at school, unless a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device.
- Care will be immediately provided for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering an asthma attack will be treated in accordance with their asthma management plan.
- 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, await 4 minutes, and then if necessary administered 4 more puffs and the cycle repeated. An ambulance will 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 will be immediately notified.
- Once asthma medication has been administered, details are to be recorded in the First Aid medication book, which is located in the First Aid Room and a copy given to parents.

This policy was last reviewed in 2019.