



# ASTHMA POLICY

## **Rationale:**

- Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10% of Australian children and teenagers. Asthma is one of the most common reasons for child admissions to hospital and missed days of school.

## **Aims:**

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

## **Implementation:**

- Asthma is a narrowing of the airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms may include difficult breathing, wheezing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking. Triggers include exercise, colds, smoke, pollens, cold air, deodorants, dusts, etc.
- Asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication.
- All students with asthma must provide an Asthma Action Plan developed by their parents and a medical practitioner outlining their symptoms and treatment plan.
- Asthma plans will be stored at the front office for reference.
- Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their child has adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer if required) with them at school at all times.
- The school will ensure that sufficient number of staff are trained in the effective management of asthma including the administering of reliever medications.
- The school will ensure that at least 2 Asthma First Aid kits are located in the school and an additional kit to be taken on camps/excursions.
- A delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and the date of Action Plans.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
- Care must be provided immediately for any students who develop signs asthma attack. Children suffering asthma should be treated in accordance with their Asthma Action Plan.
- If no plan is available, children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance will be called if there is no improvement after the 2<sup>nd</sup> 4-minute wait period.
- Parents will be called whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- The school will reduce asthma triggers by mowing grass, limiting dust and high allergen plants, maintaining air conditioners.

## **Policy Review and Approval:**

Policy last reviewed:	26/7/21
Approved by:	Anne Robinson
Next scheduled review date (3-4 yrs):	July 2025