



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. In order to meet the duty of care obligations and to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students attending, Box Hill North Primary School recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy. The school recognises the importance of involvement and engagement with parents and carers of students and the ability of students to self-manage their asthma where appropriate.

PURPOSE:

- To ensure the whole school community (principals, staff, volunteers, parents and carers and students) are aware of their obligations and best practice management of asthma in the school setting
- To provide the necessary information to effectively manage episodes of asthma within the school

PROCEDURES:

- Staff will be provided a copy of the school's asthma management policy to ensure staff are aware of asthma management strategies
- Asthma education and first aid training will be provided for staff as required
- Parents and carers will be provided with a copy of the school's asthma policy upon enrolment of their child
- Identify students with asthma during the enrolment process and provide parents and carers with a blank asthma plan to be completed and signed by the child's medical practitioner and returned to the school
- Where possible, ensure that all students with asthma have a current written asthma plan (must be updated at least annually)
- Ensure a School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Form is completed by parents/carers for off-site activities where possible
- Ensure the parents and carers of all students with asthma provide reliever medication and a spacer (and a face mask if required) at all times their child attends the school
- Ensure adequate provision and maintenance of asthma emergency kits for the school and that each asthma emergency kit contains reliever medication, two spacer devices, instructions outlining the first aid procedure and a record form
- Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students
- 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

This policy was ratified by School Council: 2013

Next policy review: 2017

Relevant documents / links

- School Policy and Advisory Guide, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2011), www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/spag/default.htm
- Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (2010), National Health and Medical Research Council, www.nhmrc.gov.au/_files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/cd33_infection_control_healthcare_