

## WODONGA SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

# ASTHMA

### SCHOOL SPECIFIC POLICY

#### **Rationale:**

- Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. 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:**

- To support students diagnosed with asthma.

#### **Implementation:**

- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking. Triggers include exercise, colds, smoke, pollens, cold air, deodorants, dusts etc.
- Children and adults with asthma may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- Professional development will be provided for all staff at least every 3 years on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed appropriately around the school.
- All students with asthma must provide to the school a fully completed up to date (annual) Asthma Foundation Victoria's School Asthma Care Plan and a Student Health Support Plan completed by the student's medical/health practitioner in consultation with the parents/guardians and provided annually by the: doctor to the parents/guardian and the parents/guardians to the school.
- Teachers will be made aware of students diagnosed with Asthma & where their Asthma Plans & Puffers are located.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer if required) with them at school at all times.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained at least every 3 years in the effective management of asthma including the administering of reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices. At least 2 Asthma First Aid Kits with disposable spacers will be located around the school and an additional kit will be taken on excursions and camps. 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.
- Asthma medications will be stored a cupboard in the first aid room in bags labelled with the student's name along with the Care Plan and Student Health Support Plan.
- Asthma First Aid posters will be displayed appropriately around the school.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and the date of Care and Action Plans.
- Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma 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, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. 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. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- The school requires parents to provide enough medication for the student if they are going away overnight and to complete the Asthma Foundation's School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Form and the

Department's Confidential Medical Information for School Council Approved School Excursions form prior to participating in camps and excursions.

- The school will regularly communicate with the student's parents about the student's successes, development, changes and any health and education concerns. In particular the frequency and severity of the student's asthma symptoms and use of medication at school.
- The school will reduce asthma triggers by mowing grass, limiting dust and high allergen plants, maintaining air conditioners etc, ensuring students with Exercise Induced Asthma have a chance to warm up and cool down, to take a reliever medication before exercise, and to stop activity and take reliever medication if symptoms occur.

**Evaluation:**

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council on....

February 2017