

SCHOOL NO. 4401 - KATANDRA WEST

Policy Statement: MANAGEMENT - 700 Administrative Services
705 - ASTHMA

Responsibility: Principal

This Policy was last ratified by School Council in 2012.

1. PURPOSE:

To assist students with asthma to manage their asthma as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children 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.

2. GUIDELINES:

2.1 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.

2.2 Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication, however, people with severe asthma may require daily or additional medication (particularly before / after exercise).

2.3 Professional Development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the First Aid wall.

2.4 Parents must supply up to date asthma information on their child, consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements, after consultation with their doctor.

Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au

2.5 Asthma plans will be attached to the student's medical records for reference.

2.6 Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.

2.7 The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever medication in our first-aid kits, including kits 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. Kits will contain alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.

2.8 The school First Aid Officer will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.

2.9 A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with the section Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.

2.10 All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.

2.11 Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.

2.12 Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.

2.13 If no plan is available staff will follow Asthma Victoria's 4 x 4 x 4 Emergency Asthma Management.

2.14 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.

2.15 The Principal, in consultation with School Council may vary this Policy if circumstances require it to be changed.