

Wandong Primary School – ASTHMA POLICY

**For Period:
November 2019 – November 2020**

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. Asthma flare ups can commonly occur while attending schools. In Australia, 1 in 9 people suffer from asthma, a chronic lung-condition which causes inflammation and constricting of a person's airways. While asthma can have minor effects if appropriately managed, severe conditions can interfere with daily life or lead to life-threatening attacks. Symptoms can flare up with little notice, with attacks potentially triggered by exercising, catching a cold or simply breathing in smoke or cold air. With no cure, fatal asthma attacks are an all-too-common occurrence. 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 manage asthma and students diagnosed with asthma effectively and efficiently as possible at whilst enrolled at Wandong Primary School.

Implementation:

- Provide parents/guardians with a copy of the school's asthma policy upon enrolment of their child.
- All students with asthma must have an up-to-date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Foundation Victoria's requirements and completed by a medical practitioner.
- Ensure a School camp and excursion medical update form is completed by parents/guardian for offsite activities.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including spacer) at school at all times, including:
 - On school camps
 - On school excursions
 - Any school event outside of school grounds.
- Wandong Primary School will provide appropriate training in line with current DET guidelines, and will ensure staff trained in the administering reliever puffers and spacer devices are available in all first-aid kits, including excursions and camps. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in each first aid kit, together with steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks.
- Wandong Primary School will ensure:
 - Care will be provided immediately to any student who develops signs of an asthma attack
 - Students who show symptoms of an asthma attack will be treated according to the Asthma Foundation Victoria's First Aid Plan, located in the sick bay, first aid kits and the staffroom.
 - The parent/guardian will be notified if their child/student is administered asthma medication by a staff member.
 - The school will provide an annually updated list of students with asthma management plans to all classroom teachers, specialists and casual relief teachers, and update as required.

- The First Aid Coordinator and the parent/guardian will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates. At the conclusion of each school year, all medication will be returned to the student's parents/guardian. Parents/guardians will bring all medication required on the first school day of the following year.

Evaluation:

- This Policy will be reviewed annually as part of the Wandong Primary School cyclic policy review process.

CERTIFICATION

This policy was endorsed by the Principal of Wandong Primary School on the 25th day November 2019.