

PARKHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY: Asthma Management Policy

PROGRAM LEADER: Michelle Smith / Elaine Brady

DATE RATIFIED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL: November 2017

RATIONALE

Asthma affects up to two in five 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 be aware of students who require an Asthma Care Plan (for Schools)
- To understand asthma symptoms which include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible while at school.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma.
- The First Aid Coordinator will ensure that an individual Asthma Care Plan (for Schools) (Appendix 1) and Student Health Support Plan (Appendix 2) is organised for asthma sufferers on an annual basis.
- Asthma Care Plan (for Schools) will be attached to the student's records for reference. Relevant teachers will have a copy and they will also be displayed in the Staffroom and in the Sick Bay.
- 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
- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the school with the appropriate care plans and medical forms, signed by a medical practitioner. The First Aid Coordinator is responsible for checking school based reliever puffer expiry dates.
- A School Excursion and Medical Update Form (Appendix 3) will be required to be completed prior to any school camp
- If no plan is available then the standard plan will apply: 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 per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle.
- Devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use and returned to first aid kits /backpacks/first aid room. Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their Asthma Care Plan (for Schools)
- An ambulance must be called if there is no significant improvement after the second 4-minute wait period, or if it is the child's first known attack
- Parents must be contacted/advised whenever their child has an asthma episode
- Asthma awareness is part of the school's program e.g. posters, newsletters and activities

EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's four year review cycle.

APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 - Asthma Care Plan (for Schools)
- Appendix 2 - Student Health Support Plan
- Appendix 3 - School Excursion and Medical Update Form V.2013.1

REFERENCES

- Asthma Australia <http://www.asthma.org.au/Resources.aspx>
- Department of Education and Training
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/conditionasthma.aspx>
- Department of Education and Training
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/supportplanning.aspx>