

Asthma Policy

Brighton Primary School

1542

1. Purpose

To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

2. Information

- 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.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication, however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- 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.

3. Guidelines

- Teaching staff will be fully informed on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks.
- All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements.
- 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.
- The nurse will be responsible for checking school based reliever puffer expiry dates.
- All spacers used by the Health Centre are disposable, for single use only, as per DEECD guidelines – to prevent risk of infection to other students. The cost of the spacer used is to be paid by the parent/guardian responsible.
- 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 delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle (as per Asthma Foundation recommendations). 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.

4. Implementation

- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks through the Asthma Foundation. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall.
- The School Nurse will ensure that an Asthma plan is organised for asthma sufferers on an annual basis. A school action plan is available at www.asthma.org.au
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference and will also be available in the Health Centre and in the child's classroom.
- The school nurse is responsible for ensuring adequate reliever puffers are in the health centre and first aid kits used on excursions and camps.
- If a child suffers an Asthma attack care should be provided by either the first aid trained staff member, nurse or first aid trained member of staff, and parents contacted

— All staff members are instructed by the school nurse how to use disposable spacers in a situation where a child has not provided their own.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in May 2014

To be reviewed 2017