



# Asthma Policy

## LANGWARRIN PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **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. This policy, based on DEECD guidelines, specifies our procedures for dealing with children who suffer from this condition.

### **Aims:**

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

### **Implementation:**

- 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).
- All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma action plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the school with an appropriate asthma medication with a current use by date, a spacer for individual use of the student and a current (annual) written asthma action plan completed by their doctor/paediatrician.
- All students with Asthma must also have a Student Health Support Plan based on health advice received from the student's medical/health practitioner.
- Asthma plans will be kept in the First Aid room folder, in the student's individual medication box in the First Aid room cupboard, in the student's School Record file and in the Classroom Teacher's Medical Records Folder.
- Professional development will be provided for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Fully professional development course every three years and yearly update.
- The school will provide generic asthma reliever medication for use in an emergency situation. These will be kept in the First Aid room.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices in all 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 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing asthma medication, spacer and asthma action plan for student's attending camp. The school will also take a generic asthma kit in the medical bag taken on camp.
- Emergency Asthma Kits will be distributed around the school buildings to ensure access to asthma medication during lockdown situations.
- The First Aid Officer will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student's asthma action plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with the Vic Government School's Reference Guide - Asthma Medication Delivery Devices and

parents/guardians have supplied the appropriate medication for use in the nebuliser for the student.

- Spacers are only to be used by a single user therefore all students must supply a spacer for their personal use.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately with antibacterial dishwashing liquid and air-dried.
- 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) preferably delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, 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.
- Asthma reliever medication is unlikely to cause harm even if the observed symptoms are not asthmatic in origin therefore asthma reliever medication should be delivered if asthma is suspected.
- LPPS school is registered as an asthma friendly school – [www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au](http://www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au)
- LPPS promotes asthma awareness within the community via newsletter articles.

**Evaluation:**

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

This policy review was represented to School Council on 18 Aug 2014