



4.2.0

## St Leonard's Primary School Asthma Policy

### **Rationale:**

Asthma affects up to two in five primary age children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. 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 before or after vigorous exercise). 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 asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

### **Implementation:**

1. Professional development will be provided for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. This professional development will form part of the First Aid training that staff undertake each year with Healthguard First Aid Training Services.
2. All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with *Asthma Victoria's* requirements. The school strongly recommends this is signed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
3. It is the parents' responsibility to provide the school with an up to date asthma management plan each year. This form, with a copy of the Asthma Policy, will be sent home to those families who indicate on their child's emergency details form that the child suffers asthma.
4. When a student attends a camp, their asthma may require different management. It is therefore required that parents complete the camp asthma action plan, which will be signed by the school. If parents do not provide an updated camp asthma action plan the annual asthma action plan provided at the beginning of that school year will be used.
5. Asthma Action Plans will be kept in the Student Emergency folder located in the administration area.
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
7. 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.
8. Where a child's management plan specifies that a child needs support to correctly administer the reliever medication, the details of dosage and time of administration will be recorded in the school's Medication Register.

9. The staff member responsible for auditing first aid supplies will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
10. 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 section 4.5.7.3 of the Schools Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices. *If a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device then the parents will be responsible for providing the nebuliser.*
11. All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
12. Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
13. Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their Asthma Management Plan.
14. If no plan is available children are to be seated, 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. 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.
15. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Medication & Sick Bay Procedure Policy.
16. Any Asthma attack will be recorded in the First Aid Book.

**Evaluation:**

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

This policy was reviewed by staff in 2014

It will be reviewed again in 2017