

## Asthma Policy

### Policy Statement

In order to meet the duty of care obligations specified by the School Policy and Advisory Guide (SPAG) and to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students attending, Croydon Hills Primary School recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy. The school recognises the importance of involvement and engagement with parents and carers of students and the ability of students to self-manage their asthma where appropriate.

We aim to:

- ensure the whole school community (principals, staff, volunteers, parents and carers and students) are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma in the school setting
- provide the necessary information and resources to effectively manage episodes of asthma within the school

### 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 attacks can commonly occur while attending school.

### Implementation

The school will:

- Obtain a written asthma plan for all students diagnosed with asthma upon enrolment at the school and ensure they are updated at least annually
- Store medical information and medications appropriately
- Ensure that students feel safe and supported at school
- Support student healthcare needs
- Provide and maintain at least two asthma emergency kits, with an extra kit required for every 300 students in a large school
- Ensure all staff are aware of the school's asthma management policy and asthma management strategies
- A list of asthmatic students will be included in CRT booklets
- Provide asthma education and first aid training for staff every three years.
- Ensure our Asthma policy is available to parents on the school's website
- Identify students with asthma during the enrolment process and provide parents and carers with a written asthma plan to be completed and signed by the child's medical practitioner
- Ensure a School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Form is completed by parents/carers for off-site activities
- Ensure the parents and carers of all students with asthma provide reliever medication and a spacer at all times their child attends the school
- Ensure that reliever medications within the asthma emergency kits are replaced regularly and have not expired, and that reusable spacers are not shared after use and are replaced after five uses
- Promptly communicate to parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students attending the school
- Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students
- Ensure that students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way
- Ensure that students with asthma can participate in all activities safely and to their fullest abilities

**Foundation – Year 4 Students:** Named puffer and spacer (supplied by parents) to be kept in Sickbay and the child sent to Sickbay for supervised administration of reliever medication. Sickbay staff to monitor child, record time and dosage and notify parent.

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# Croydon Hills Primary School



**Year 5 & 6 Students:** Named puffers and spacers may be kept with student, but parents will be asked to provide another to Sickbay for emergency use.

## Staff will:

- Be aware of the school's asthma management policy
- Send asthmatic students to the sick bay to use their puffer before physical activity if this is known to be a trigger
- Monitor student use of puffers during physical activity
- Be aware of where to access written asthma plans, School Camp and Excursion Medical Update Forms, and asthma emergency kits
- Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students
- Ensure that students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way
- Ensure that students with asthma can participate in activities safely and to their fullest abilities
- Promptly communicate to the principal, parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students enrolled in the school
- Carry an Asthma emergency kit (bum bag), containing a puffer and at least 2 disposable spacers, with them if supervising any session involving physical activity. Student use of puffers during physical activity will be monitored closely. Students will not be allowed to take puffers and spacers from the sickbay.

## Parents and Carers will:

- Inform the school if their child has asthma upon enrolment
- Read the school's asthma management policy which is available on the school website
- Provide a signed, written asthma plan to the school, and ensure that it is updated at least yearly
- Provide a School Camp or Excursion Medical Update form as required
- Provide the school with their child's reliever medication along with a spacer (required for 'puffer' medication) for all times the child is attending the school, unless the child is carrying the medication and spacer for self-management purposes for students in Years 5 and 6 only, replacing such medication upon expiry date occurring
- Promptly communicate all medical and health information relevant to their child, to relevant staff at the school
- Communicate any changes to their child's asthma or any concerns about the health of their child

## Students will:

- Immediately inform staff if they experience asthma symptoms
- Inform staff if they have self-administered any asthma medication
- Year 5 and 6 students will carry asthma medication and a spacer with them with necessary (if self-managing their asthma)

## Asthma Emergency Kits

 Asthma Emergency Kits should contain:

- Reliever medication
- x2 small volume spacer device
- Record form and Asthma First Aid instruction card

Please note that it is a recommendation of The Asthma Foundation of Victoria that hard plastic spacers and facemasks are single-person use only. It is essential to have at least two spacers and two facemasks contained in each first aid kit and that spacers, other than multiple use spacers, and face masks are replaced each time they are used.

## References

Policies –Camps, Excursions, Medication and First Aid

School Policy and Advisory Guide - [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag)

Asthma Foundation - [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)

**Review** -To be reviewed annually