

### Rationale:

As asthma can affect up to one in five children and one in ten adults, it is important for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers and, most importantly, the management of asthma in the school environment.

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).

### Aims:

To provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of an asthma attack can participate equally in all aspects of each student's schooling.

To raise awareness about asthma and the school's asthma management policy in the school community

To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of an asthma attack in assessing risks and to develop risk-minimisation strategies and management strategies for each student.

To ensure that each staff member has adequate knowledge about asthma and about the school's policy and procedures in responding to asthma attacks.

### Implementation:

Professional development will be provided for all staff on asthma and information will also be displayed in the service.

All students with asthma must have an up to date (annual) written asthma management 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)

Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference.

- 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 school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of reliever medication.

- In the first aid kits a spacer device and reliever will be available, 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.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- 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 follow the national asthma guidelines, administer 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.

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2023
Consultation	August 2023      College Council August 2023      College Newsletter
Approved by	College Council
Next scheduled review date	June 2026