



Our Lady of the Way Primary School
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ASTHMA POLICY

1.0 Rationale

In order to meet the duty of care obligations to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students attending *Our Lady of the Way*, the school recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an Asthma Policy.

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 exacerbations can commonly occur while attending schools, particularly in February and May.

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.

2.0 Aims

Our Lady of the Way School is committed to:

- 2.1 Making all staff aware of individuals that are asthmatic.
- 2.2 Improving knowledge and raising awareness about asthma and the School's Asthma Policy within the *Our Lady of the Way* community.
- 2.3 Providing appropriate attention to all individuals who have asthma and who have an asthma attack or difficulty breathing. Asthma management is viewed as a shared responsibility.

3.0 Implementation (SCHOOL & STAFF)

- The school remains committed to being an **Asthma Friendly** School.
- Teachers are informed of those students with asthma in their care.
- The majority of staff have current training in Asthma First Aid and routine management, conducted or approved by the Asthmas Foundation.
- Asthma Emergency Kits are accessible to staff and includes an in-date reliever medication, a single person spacer and concise written instructions on Asthma First Aid procedures.
- Regular prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the information on the student's personal Asthma Record or Asthma Action Plan.
- In an emergency, asthma medication is administered according to the Asthma Action Plan. If no Asthma Plan is available the Standard Asthma First Aid Plan will be followed immediately.

- All asthmatics (if age appropriate) will be encouraged to carry their reliever medication and use their medication as soon as symptoms develop.
- At least one trained member of staff is present during all onsite and offsite activities and excursions.
- All asthma attacks are documented and parents advised, as a matter of priority.
- Staff will promptly communicate any concerns to the principal/parents should it be considered that an individual's asthma is limiting their ability to participate fully in all school activities.
- Asthma First Aid posters are on display. The school community will identify and where possible, minimise asthma triggers.

4.0 Implementation (PARENTS/CARERS)

- Students with asthma will be identified during the enrolment process.
- Parents of students with asthma will be made aware of the school's Asthma Policy.
- Parents of students with asthma are to provide an *Asthma Care Plan*, signed by the treating doctor. This is reviewed annually and kept in the medication file.
- Parents provide their child's medication, clearly dated and in the original labelled container. A spacer and mask, if required, should also be provided.
- Parents should alert staff to any changes in their child's asthma management.

5.0 Evaluation

The Principal, with delegated responsibility to the Leadership Team is responsible for the planning, implementation and review of this policy.

Asthma First Aid

Procedure if someone has an asthma attack.

In a case where someone is having an asthma attack, staff should immediately administer Asthma First Aid according to either:

- The provided Asthma Action Plan as signed by the parent and doctor and/or doctor's written instructions
OR
- Follow the Asthma First Aid Plan below AND if a first attack – Call an ambulance (Dial 000).

If someone has difficulty in breathing and there is no notification on any written communication form about the student having asthma, call an ambulance immediately and follow the Asthma First Aid Plan. No harm is likely to result from giving a reliever puffer to someone without asthma.

Step 1

Sit the person upright, stay calm and offer reassurance. Do not leave the person alone.

Step 2

Without delay, give four separate puffs of a blue reliever (Airomir, Asmol, Epaq or Ventolin). The medication is best given one puff at a time via a spacer device. Ask the person to take four breaths from the spacer after each puff of medication. If a spacer is not available, simply use the puffer on its own.

Step 3

Wait four minutes. If there is little or no improvement repeat steps two and three.

Step 4

If there is still no improvement call an ambulance immediately (Dial 000). Continue to repeat steps two and three while waiting for the ambulance. Record any asthma incident in the First Aid book.