

# ASTHMA

## POLICY

### **Rationale:**

- 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.
- It is important for all staff and community 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:**

- Professional development will be provided for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks.
- 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 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.
- The school nurse will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Students suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan and referred to the school nurse where practical.
- Our school will register as an asthma friendly school – [www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au](http://www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au)

### **Evaluation:**

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

DECEMBER 2008