

# **LALOR EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Lalor East is an accredited Asthma Friendly School. Asthma is a chronic lung condition that affects up to one in four primary aged children. Children with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which can make it difficult for them to breathe. Good asthma management allows them to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Protecting our community from the effects of severe asthma attacks is a fundamental responsibility of School Council.

Every person's asthma is different. Known triggers of asthma include: colds, flu, cigarette smoke, exercise, pollens, moulds, dust mites, dust, changes in temperature and weather, chemicals, emotional factors (e.g. laughter, stress) and some food preservatives. Symptoms of Asthma include: shortness of breath, wheezing, chest tightness and a dry, irritating, persistent cough, particularly at night/early morning, with exercise or activity.

## **Aims**

- To increase awareness and understanding of asthma and to actively support the whole school community in the management of asthma.
- To educate students, staff and the school community about the causes, symptoms and procedures in managing asthma.
- To ensure DEECD guidelines are met.
- To ensure a plan is in place for managing asthma during school hours including sporting events, excursions and camps.

## **Implementation Guidelines**

### **Duty of Care**

- All staff are provided with professional development, as mandated including the identification of asthma triggers, symptoms and appropriate treatment processes in the event of an asthma attack, including the use of reliever medication and spacer device.
- Prevention measures such as adjusting classroom heating, mowing lawns outside of school hours, banning spray deodorants etc. will be undertaken
- Originals of student's asthma management plans are to be kept in sickbay with a copy going to the classroom teacher which will be kept in the roll.
- A list of students with asthma will be provided to the Specialist teachers.
- Incorporate the use of Asthma Friendly Schools program into the school's health curriculum across all levels.

### **Parental Obligations**

- Parents of students with asthma are to inform the school on enrolment and update their child's asthma management plan each year.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has an adequate supply of the appropriate asthma medication including spacer and that the medication is in date at all times.
- Parents need to prepare their child to self-manage their condition, by providing training in the administration of medication and encouraging the reporting of any symptoms or discomfort without delay.

## **Responsibilities and Procedures**

- The school has blue reliever puffers and spacer devices located in sickbay and in the first aid kits used for excursions, sports and camps. Grade 5/6 students are encouraged to carry their own medication.
- For school excursions, camps and sporting events the class teacher or another designated staff member will hold onto all student Asthma Management Plans and be responsible for administering or overseeing the child self-administer asthma medications as required.
- Emergency Asthma Kits contain, as mandated, a blue reliever puffer, spacer and 70% alcohol swabs.
- After use the blue reliever puffer and spacer device are to be cleaned following the procedures displayed in sickbay.
- The designated Education Support Staff member for first aid will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and replacing as necessary or notifying parents as necessary. They will also be responsible for ensuring all components of the Emergency Asthma Kits are in place.
- Students showing signs of asthma will be treated according to their asthma management plan. Treatment will be recorded in the sickbay log book with a note sent home to parents.
- If there is no asthma plan available then the process outlined in “Asthma First Aid Asthma Friendly Schools” poster displayed in sickbay will be followed and the parents contacted.

## **Further Information**

- Asthma Foundation of Victoria [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
- DEECD <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/asthma.aspx>
- <http://asthmafriendlyschools.org.au/home/index.php>

## **Evaluation**

Effectiveness of the Asthma Policy will be determined through observation, school community feedback (including emergency services) and staff training performance indicators.

The Asthma Policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Approved by School Council: June 2013

Review Date: June 2016