

# Asthma Management Policy

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## INTRODUCTION

Bairnsdale Christian Community School is committed to providing a caring environment for all of its students and staff members. Managing asthma is part of the care we provide. We do this in service to God, the creator of all and of each child. Each child is precious to Him and so we need to do whatever we can to care for them. We also see our role as caregivers *in loco parentis*- in the place of the parents or seeing the school as an extension of the home. Managing asthma then is part of the care we aim to provide, aiming to have a safe and positive learning environment.

## RATIONALE

Asthma affects up to 1 in 4 primary aged children, 1 in 7 teenagers and 1 in 10 adults. It is a common cause for school absenteeism and a major cause of childhood admissions to hospital. Asthma can be fatal but the sad fact is that more than half of the fatalities due to asthma are preventable.

Therefore it is imperative that all staff members be aware of the condition that is asthma, its symptoms and triggers and its appropriate management. It is imperative, also, that asthma be well managed to minimise the impact of the illness on children thus providing them with a positive learning environment.

## AIMS

- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as efficiently and effectively as possible.
- To increase understanding and awareness of asthma in the general School community.

## IMPLEMENTATION

This policy is applicable to all members of the School community.

- Regular professional development will be provided for staff members covering the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. This will be provided by a qualified health professional at least once every three years.
- New staff will be briefed on asthma and its management in the interim years as part of their induction and mentoring process.
- Information covering the nature and treatment of asthma attacks will be prominently displayed throughout the school.
- Information will also be promoted through the newsletter from time to time.
- Each year, all students identified as having asthma must provide the School with an up to date, written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements and signed off by the child's doctor or paediatrician. This form is to be completed by the parents/guardians of the child. Proforma Asthma Management plan forms are available from the School or from Asthma Victoria directly via the website at [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au) Asthma management plans are also required to be completed for each camp using the special form available from the School Office or Asthma Victoria.
- Asthma management plans are to be kept in the Office and will be kept with the student files for future reference.
- Parents/guardians will be requested to inform the School if there are any changes to these notification forms.
- Children must be treated according to their individual Asthma Management plan.

- Parents/guardians are primarily responsible to provide an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication for their child along with a spacer for any inhalers. They are also responsible for ensuring that their children have them with them at all times.
- Children will be able to bring and carry with them appropriate asthma medications provided their parents/guardians have completed the appropriate Asthma Management plan (s) and their medication is clearly labelled.
- The School will provide, and have staff trained in the administration of, reliever inhalers such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl as well as appropriate spacers. These inhalers and spacers will be placed in all First Aid kits in the School as well as in the First Aid/Sick Room, kits taken on excursions and camps and the Yard Duty first Aid waist bag/kit. Also an inhaler and spacer will be kept in an accessible place in each classroom block. Clear written instructions will be included with each reliever inhaler along with instructions on how to deal with a severe asthma attack. 70% alcohol swabs are also to be included with each kit and in the First Aid room to enable safe cleaning of spacers and inhalers.
- The School's receptionist/secretary will be responsible for checking the expiry dates for all the reliever puffers provided by the School.
- All devices used to treat any asthma attack must be cleaned appropriately after use.
- Senior students can also be involved in training to help deal with classmates and other students suffering from an asthma attack.
- If no plan has been provided staff must treat children according to the guidelines provided by Asthma Victoria and displayed via posters around the School and contained on advice cards in First Aid kits/First Aid room.
- An ambulance must be called if there is no visible improvement after the prescribed time of initial treatment. Parents must be notified immediately if an ambulance has been called.
- Parents must be advised using the "Illness/Injury Parent Notification Book" used by the School and located in the First Aid room whenever their child has an asthma attack regardless of the severity.
- On **excursions, camps and sports days** a minimum of one staff member capable of managing an acute asthma attack will be present. Parents and students will be reminded of their responsibility to ensure they have adequate medication and that it is with them while away from the School.
- On **excursions, camps and sports days** a School Asthma Management plan will be kept easily accessible for staff conducting the activity and present on the activity. For **Camps** a special *School Camp Asthma Action Plan* is required to be completed and taken on camp. A copy is also to be kept at the school for the duration of the camp.
- Asthma education will be included as part of the School's health curriculum and will make use of the valuable resources available from Asthma Victoria.