



ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY

Preamble

Asthma is a common chronic lung condition that affects up to 1:4 primary school aged students. It is a common cause for school absenteeism and is a major cause of childhood admissions to hospital. Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers the airways constrict making it hard for the student to breathe. Symptoms of asthma commonly include coughing, tightness in the chest, shortness of breath/rapid breathing and wheezing.

1. Aims:

- To provide as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of asthma can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.
- To increase awareness and understanding of asthma and to actively support the whole school community in the effective management of the condition.
- To ensure that all staff have adequate knowledge and training in asthma management.
- To engage with parents/carers of students at risk of an asthma attack in assessing risks, developing risk minimisation and management strategies for the student within the school environment and beyond.

2. Implementation:

- Every student enrolled at the school with asthma must have a written Asthma Management Plan which is completed by their medical/health practitioner, in consultation with the student's parent/carer.
- The Asthma Management Plan must include an up to date photo of the student, details on what to do and details of medications to be used in cases of an asthma attack. It must contain the name, address and telephone number of an emergency contact as well as details of the student's doctor.
- Parents/Carers are responsible for the annual updating of their child's Asthma Management Plan at the start of each academic year.
- The First Aid Officer will keep the Student Asthma Management Plan in a folder in the sick bay.
- The First Aid Officer will display a current list of students with asthma and severe allergies in the staff room, canteen and sick bay.
- Photos of severe asthmatic students will be inserted in all bumble/yard duty bags for easy identification for teachers on yard duty.
- The school administration will provide teachers at the beginning of every year with a list of students in their care who have asthma.

Respect, Caring, Resilience, Love of Learning, Honesty, Positivity

- Parents are responsible for providing their child with an adequate supply of appropriate medication.
- Students should be encouraged to carry or have available appropriate asthma medication and wherever possible self-administer.
- Students should be encouraged to take their puffer immediately should asthma symptoms develop.
- Parents/Carers must provide written authority if school staff is to administer prescribed medication should their child need assistance.
- The school will carry a spare blue puffer and disposable spacers in the first aid kit which can be used at all off site activities such as excursions, camps, sports days if required.
- The school will provide families with a copy of this policy annually through the school's newsletter and other relevant publications.
- The classroom teacher will be responsible for recording the student's asthma condition on the front cover of the student's blue academic folder.
- The Asthma Management Plan will be reviewed by the child's medical/health practitioner if the student's situation changes.
- Parents/Carers must supply the school with an up to date Asthma Management Plan prior to a student attending an overnight camp.
- In a situation where a student HAS NOT BEEN DIAGNOSED with asthma and appears to be having an asthma attack, call an ambulance immediately by dialling 000, commence first aid and contact the parents/carers.
- The school is responsible for completing the CASES21 Incident Notification Form each time an asthma attack has resulted in the student receiving emergency medical attention.

3. Evaluation:

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

Ratification Date	Review Date	Policy No.	Version No.	Date Produced
October 2018	Year 2021	65	2	Year 2011