



St Francis of Assisi
PARISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

Rationale

Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. It is important therefore for all staff 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

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. Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication, however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).

Information regarding asthma is on display in the First Aid Room. 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. Asthma plans are kept in a folder in the First Aid Room. 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 puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl 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. Kits will contain disposable spacers.

The School Nurse will be responsible for checking puffer expiry dates. All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.

Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack. Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan. If no plan is available, contact parents and administer asthma plan. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.

All information regarding the students will be kept in a folder in the First Aid room. This is also in accordance with our Privacy Policy.