



Asthma School Policy

Purpose:

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10% of Australian children and teenagers. Asthma is one of the most common reasons for child admission to hospital and missed days of school. Asthma exacerbations can commonly occur while attending school, particularly in February and May.

In order to meet the duty of care obligations specified by the School Policy and Advisory Guide and to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students. Chewton Primary school recognizes the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy. The school recognizes the importance of involvement and engagement with parents and carers of students and the ability of students to self-manage their asthma when appropriate.

Aim:

- To ensure the whole school community (staff, parents, carers, volunteers and students are aware of their obligations and of best practice management of asthma in a school setting.
- To provide the necessary information to effectively manage students with asthma attending the school.

Implementation:

The Principal will:

- Provide staff with a copy of the schools' asthma management policy and ensure staff are aware of the asthma management strategies upon employment at the school.
- Provide asthma education and first aid training for staff on a yearly basis with at least 75% of the staff trained in first aid management.
- Provide parents and carers with a copy of the school's asthma policy upon enrolment of their child.
- Identify students with asthma during enrolment and provide them with a management plan to be completed by their doctor. Ensure this plan is updated annually.
- Ensure a School Camp and Excursion Medical Update form is completed by parents/carers for all off site activities when possible.
- Ensure all students have their asthma medication and spacer at school.
- Ensure all staff are aware of the asthma procedure.
- Ensure maintenance and provision of asthma emergency kit for the school and that each kit contains reliever medication and spacer.
- Ensure medication has not expired.
- Communicate any concerns re child's asthma to parents.
- Minimize when possible, triggers for asthma in the school.
- Ensure students with asthma are not discriminated.
- Ensure students with asthma can participate in all activities when possible.

Staff will:

- Be aware of the schools' asthma management policy
- Be aware of asthma first aid procedure
- Be aware of students with asthma and where their medication, spacer and plan is stored.
- Attend first aid updates yearly

- Be aware of children's triggers and minimise them when possible
- Ensure students with asthma are not discriminated in any way
- Communicate to parents any concerns they may have regarding child asthma management.
- Ensure Camps and Excursion Plans are completed

Parents will:

- Inform the school if their child has asthma
- Read the schools policy
- Provide a written plan to the school and update yearly
- Provide camp and excursion medical update forms
- Provide school with reliever medication and spacer in a clearly marked container
- Ensure the child is self managing their asthma
- Communicate any changes to the child's management plan

Students will:

- Immediately inform staff if they are experiencing symptoms of asthma
- Inform staff if they have self-administered any asthma medications
- Carry asthma medication and spacer with them if they are self-managing their asthma

The schools Emergency Kit will contain:

- Reliever medication and spacer (2 spacers per kit)
- Instruction card
- Spacer is for single use only and can then be given to the child for personal use

Thunderstorm Asthma:

- Thunderstorm asthma is a form of asthma that is triggered by an uncommon combination of high pollen (usually during late spring to early summer) and a certain kind of thunderstorm.
- Anyone can be affected, even if you don't have a history of asthma.
- People at increased risk have a history of asthma, have unrecognised asthma, have hay fever (allergic rhinitis), particularly seasonal hay fever, or are allergic to grass pollen.
- People experiencing asthma symptoms even if for the first time should not ignore it, and should seek medical advice as soon as possible
- Staff to be aware of forecast thunderstorms in the pollen season particularly on days with a HIGH or EXTREME pollen count.
- **Should conditions indicate the possibility of a thunderstorm induced asthma event, students will stay indoors with doors and windows closed until the storm front has passed.**

Evaluation: This policy will be reviewed as part of the schools three year cycle review.

This statement was ratified by school council on 26/10/2017