

Bellbrae Primary School

50 School Road
Bellbrae, 3228
Victoria

(03) 5261 2660

bellbrae.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au



Policy ratified by
School Council

October 2014

Rationale

Asthma is a common chronic lung condition that affects up to two in five Primary school aged students. It is a common cause for school absenteeism and is a major cause of childhood admissions to hospital. With appropriate management, the impact of asthma can be minimised

Purpose

The Victorian Schools Asthma Policy states that every student with asthma attending the school should have a written *Asthma Management Plan*. A student's doctor, in consultation with the student's parent/carers, should fill out this plan.

In cases where the student is diagnosed with mild asthma where there is no management plan from the G.P., the parent/carer may complete the necessary forms.

The plan should be easily accessible to all school staff and updated annually or when the student's asthma management changes significantly.

- To collaborate with parent/carers to obtain asthma management plan for each student with asthma.
- To equip asthma first aid kits and store them in strategic locations for easy access and use.
- To be able to manage an asthma attack and follow the asthma first aid plans.
- To treat a first attack of asthma if it happens at school.
- To educate students.

Guidelines

1. Asthma management plans will be located in a central location for easy access by all staff.
2. Students with asthma will be expected to take part in normal school sporting activities, where possible.
3. Students will have easy access to their reliever medication. Students will preferably carry their reliever with them at all times.
4. There will be regular checks of the contents and expiry date of the reliever medication in the first aid kit.
5. Spacer devices will be available and should be used.
6. Staff will know how to clean asthma delivery devices and ensure those in the first aid kit are cleaned and checked after every use.

Attachments:-

School Asthma Management Plan

School Camp Asthma Management Plan

Sample Letter to Parents – Asthma Friendly School Guidelines May 2001

Appendix 4 – Asthma Friendly School Guidelines May 2001

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Program

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Purpose

To develop an increased awareness and understanding of asthma and actively support the whole school community in the effective management of asthma.

Implementation

1. At the beginning of each school year parents/carers will be requested to complete standard asthma notification forms if required.
2. A School Camp Asthma Management Plan is to be sent to parents and carers before the camp and the Medical Update form should be returned to staff the day **prior** to the camp. Camp catering staff will be provided with a record of those students who are known to have food allergies or whose asthma is triggered by food or food additives.
3. All staff will be reminded of their Asthma Management obligations at the start of each school year and be included in the General Information Booklet.
4. Teachers will be provided with a list of students in their care who have asthma.
5. A list of students with asthma and severe allergies will be stored in a central location.
6. Potential asthma triggers minimised within the school environment:
 - Indoor – when devising a cleaning contract the company will be made aware of asthma friendly cleaning.
 - Outdoor – through the diary, parents will be able to request for a child to remain indoors if certain triggers are apparent on that day (pollen/very cold days).
 - Ground maintenance such as mowing/spraying should be done out of school hours.
7. Recognition of potential risks on school sports days, excursions or school camps and the need for management and emergency procedures for students with asthma.
8. School First Aid Kit/Asthma First Aid Kits will include a volume spacer and blue reliever puffer (Airomir, Asmol, Bricanyl or Ventolin) along with a copy of the Asthma First Aid Plan in the school First Aid Kit/Asthma First Aid Kit.
9. Small carry bags for teachers on yard duty will include a small spacer, blue relief puffer and an Emergency First Aid card.

Evaluation

An effective asthma management program (student, parents, school) will ensure all students with an asthma condition participate fully in the school program, where possible.