

Asthma Policy Jells Park Primary School
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Purpose

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 the school environment. This Policy sets out the ways asthma and asthma sufferers are managed as effectively and efficiently as possible at Jells Park Primary School.

Guidelines

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.

A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with section 4.5.7.3 of the SOTF Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.

Implementation

- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall, the teacher resource area and in the First Aid room next to the Office.
- 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. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at the school Office or from www.asthma.org.au
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's records for reference.
- 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.
- Each student with an Asthma Management Plan must have a reliever puffer with spacer available in their school bags at all times and the medication must be taken with them on any excursion or outdoor education activity.
- 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 taken on excursions and to 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 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
- The staff member responsible for first aid management will be responsible for checking reliever 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 children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second 4-minute wait period, or if it is the child's first known attack. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.

References:

- DEECD Asthma Policy
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/conditionasthma.aspx>

Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four-yearly review cycle, or sooner, if necessary.

Refer also to:

First Aid Policy

Anaphylaxis Management Policy

School Excursions Policy

Outdoor Education Policy

Critical Incident Policy