



# Asthma Policy

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## 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 St John's Catholic Parish Primary 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).

Children with asthma should be taught how to take their own asthma medication.

Asthma medication must be provided by parents. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.

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 and the student's classroom.

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 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.

Asthma spacers are single person use only. To avoid infection transmission via mucus, spacers and masks must only be used by one person. They should be stored in a dust proof container. Spacer should not be stored in a plastic bag as this can cause static inside the spacer; and cleaned once a month by the student / parent / carer.

Blue/grey reliever medication "puffers" may be used by more than one student as long as they have been used with a spacer. If a spacer comes in contact with the mouth, it cannot be reused.

All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use. See <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/asthma/guidance> for further guidance about asthma attacks, cleaning asthma puffers and key information.

The School Officers 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.

Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.

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 - in haling 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.

Schools are not required to supply a nebuliser pump.

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.

For further information see <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/asthma/policy>