



ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY

Definition:

Asthma is a disease of the airways, the small tubes which carry air in and out of the lungs. Asthma symptoms are caused by the muscles in the airways tightening and the lining of the airways swelling and producing sticky mucus. This causes the airways to narrow and for less air to flow in and out of the lungs.

Asthma symptoms commonly include:

- a. shortness of breath;
- b. wheezing;
- c. tightness in chest;
- d. a dry, persistent, irritating cough.

Triggers of asthma include:

- a. exercise;
- b. cold/flu;
- c. smoke;
- d. weather changes;
- e. dust;
- f. mould;
- g. foods/additives;
- h. medications;
- i. emotions.

Rationale:

To provide parents/carers and staff of Malvern Central School (the *School*) with processes and protocols regarding the management of students with asthma while they are at school and in the care of staff.

Aim:

To manage the wellbeing of students who suffer from asthma or asthma symptoms while they are at school and in the care of staff.

Implementation:

1. **Students** must alert a staff member of the School immediately they begin to experience any signs of asthma.
2. **Parents/carers** of students who suffer from asthma must:
 - 2.1 notify on enrolment if a student suffers from asthma and provide accurate, current and detailed information to the School regarding the student's asthma symptoms and triggers;
 - 2.2 provide the School with a completed Victorian School Asthma Action Plan;

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- 2.3 notify the School of any changes relevant to the student's asthma management;
 - 2.4 keep the Victorian School Asthma Action Plan updated yearly or as requested by the School;
 - 2.5 provide any necessary asthma medication needing to be administered at school in accordance with the Medication Management Policy;
 - 2.6 complete School Camp Asthma Action Plan and Excursion Medical Update Form prior to student attending camp or going on excursions.
3. **Staff** of the School must be aware of:
 - 3.1 students in their class/level who suffer from asthma;
 - 3.2 this Asthma Management Policy and related processes and protocols regarding the management of students with asthma.
 4. **Nominated first aid staff members** must:
 - 4.1 inform staff of the School about the Asthma Management Policy and related processes and protocols regarding the management of students with asthma;
 - 4.2 inform parents/carers about the Asthma Management Policy and where applicable request parents/carers to update annually their student's Victorian School Asthma Action Plan;
 - 4.3 provide staff with all relevant asthma information for students in their care;
 - 4.4 ensure asthma medication kept at school is managed in accordance with the Medication Management Policy;
 - 4.5 organise asthma training in accordance with applicable DET guidelines;
 - 4.6 manage and maintain asthma first aid kits;
 - 4.7 maintain private and confidential the medical documentation of students with asthma.

Resources:

- Asthma, Chronic Illness Alliance
<http://www.chronicillness.org.au/invisible-illness/asthma/>
- Asthma Australia
<http://asthmaonline.org.au/>
- DET School Policy & Advisory Guide – Asthma
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/conditionasthma.aspx>

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Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the School's three-year review cycle.

- Review Date: **2019**

This policy was last ratified by School Council in: **March 2016**

Ratified by School Council: