

ASTHMA POLICY

(For annual review. Next due September 2019)

Policy goal

All students at school who are known to have asthma are supported via Asthma Friendly policies and procedures and all students, staff and visitors can access Asthma First Aid in an emergency.

Policy commitment

We are committed to being an Asthma Friendly school as outlined by Asthma Australia. This means:

Asthma First Aid Training

The majority of staff have current basic first aid training and training in Asthma First Aid (3 yearly).

New staff are inducted in asthma policies and procedures

First Aid training can be accessed from

- The Asthma Foundation of SA – online training <http://asthmaonline.org.au>
- Face to face Asthma Care and Adolescent Program (ACAP) training on school site is available for fee
- Basic Emergency Life Support (BELS) can be provided by Australian Red Cross SA, St. Johns Ambulance Australia

The Asthma Foundation of SA recommends community services consider Asthma First Aid training every **three** years.

Parents/caregivers

It is a requirement for all students with asthma to have an Asthma Care Plan, signed by the treating doctor. These should be reviewed and updated annually. Provision of medication, clearly dated and in the original labelled container and a spacer and mask should also be supplied. Any changes to the child's asthma management should be communicated to staff.

Asthma Emergency Kits (AEK)

Asthma Emergency Kits (3) are stored in the first aid room. They are to be borrowed via the Register for any off site excursions or camps. AEK may be purchased from the Asthma Foundation SA.

It is the responsibility of the Safety Management Representative to ensure that the medication included in the School AEK are current.

Replacement blue/grey relievers are available by obtaining an order form from the Asthma Foundation SA (T 1800 645 130) or directly from the school's medical supplier.

Infection control guidelines indicate that spacers and masks should be used by one person only. Any used spacers and masks should be disposed of and replaced. The used spacer can be labelled and given/kept for the person who used it. Spacers can be purchased through the Asthma Foundation SA, retail pharmacies or medical suppliers. The cardboard LiteAire spacer is an alternative option for Over 5's kits only. If school supply AEK are used because a student has not supplied their own spacer and mask, parents are invoiced the replacement cost.

Students are encouraged to have their own reliever medication and spacer kept either in their backpacks or in the first aid room.

Students are encouraged to have their own reliever medication and spacer with them in their backpacks when onsite and with them on all off-site activities.

Storage – kits should be accessible and stored in a cool place away from maximum heat and direct sunlight and stored below 30 degrees Celsius.

Students with Asthma

Students enrolling at St Peter's have their medical conditions documented on the Data Processing system. Asthma Care Plans are circulated to all new parents in the New Student Information pack. Once completed by the Medical Officer, the asthma plan is returned to school. A copy of the asthma plan is circulated to the appropriate class teacher and the original plan is stored in the first aid room.

If students are mature enough to manage their own relievers, parents or medical officers can authorize self-administration and the puffers can be stored in the student's backpack. The student is instructed to notify their teacher if they require the use of their puffer so effect can be noted.

If a student's asthma attack is too severe for movement, help will be called and the blue reliever taken to the student. Otherwise, non self-administering students with mild asthma will go to the Front Office to receive their reliever with support and supervision by a first aider.

Parents/carers of students who receive relievers under supervision at the front office are sent an email informing them of their child's need for asthma treatment and the treatment provided is documented in PC Data Base/ Schools Medical Incidence log by office staff.

Warm up and Cool Down Policy

Children with asthma commonly take reliever medication prior to activity, as part of the warm up protocol to prevent Exercise Induced Asthma. If a student requires medication prior to activity, this should be documented on their asthma care plan. Reliever medication should be taken 10-15 minutes prior to the activity for the warm up to be effective.

Return to Activity Policy

Students requiring medication during an activity and symptoms are relieved either by following the 4x4x4 protocol or their own asthma care plan may return to the activity.

If the student requires medication for the second time during the activity, administer medication as required. The student then does **not** return to the activity even if symptoms are relieved.

School Responsibilities for Asthma Management for Off-site Activities

- Provide a Camp Medical Information Form for every student
- Provide a consent for every student
- Read all returned forms and investigate any specific requirements
- Have an awareness of all student's health support requirements
- Ensure that all medication and health support plans required are present at all times
- Ensure that an Asthma Emergency Kit is included in the school first aid equipment and taken to the off-site activity
- Ensure that all supervising teachers have received Asthma First Aid training.
- If Instructors take over management of activities ensure they are made aware of health support requirements, ensuring confidentiality is protected
- Ensure an Asthma First Aid Kit or student's individual medication is available during aquatic activities.
- Ensure AFK or student's individual medication is available if small groups are moving away from the base.

Can a Student Participate in Physical Activity (including swimming)?

- Asthma identified, no school care plan, no medication provided

YES they can participate

First Aid:

Administer asthma reliever medication from the AEK if needed, following the 4x4x4 procedure

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- Asthma identified, has school care plan, care plan does **not** require medication before exercise, no medication provided

YES they can participate

First Aid:

Administer asthma reliever medication from the AEK if needed, following the 4x4x4 procedure

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- Asthma identified, care plan **requires** medication before exercise, medication is provided

YES they can participate

First Aid:

Use student's medication as directed in care plan

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- Asthma identified, care plan **requires** medication before exercise, no medication provided

NO they cannot participate