



Mount Pleasant Primary School
Asthma Policy
2023

- *Working Together* -



Asthma Policy

Policy Statement

This school is committed to:

Providing the necessary procedures to ensure the health and safety of all persons with asthma involved with the school

Raising the awareness of asthma amongst those involved with the school

Providing an environment in which young people with asthma can participate in all activities to their full potential

Providing a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to document strategies for implementation of best practice asthma management within an educational setting so that:

All children enrolled at Mount Pleasant Primary School who have asthma can receive appropriate attention as required

The school can respond to the needs of children who have not been diagnosed with asthma and who have an asthma attack or difficulty breathing while involved in school activities.

Considerations

This policy is correct at the time of publication.

This policy has been developed along the guide lines set out in the 'Policy Document – Asthma Friendly Schools'. Mount Pleasant Primary is committed to being an Asthma Friendly School as outlined by Asthma Australia.



Asthma Policy Responsibilities

Implementation

Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility. To this end each of the key groups within this school give the following undertakings:

Staff Responsibilities

- Implementing this policy on a daily basis
- Ensuring that they maintain current Asthma First Aid training.
- Identifying students with asthma during the enrolment process and document this information appropriately.
- Compiling a list of students with asthma and placing it in a secure but readily accessible location, which is known to all staff. Relief staff will be made aware of the location of the asthma care plans.
- Discussing any concerns to parents/carers about the student's asthma limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all activities.
- Consulting with the parents/carers of students with asthma, in relation to the health and safety of their child and the supervised management of the student's asthma.
- Encouraging children of appropriate age and ability to self-manage their asthma, including using their reliever medication as soon as symptoms develop.
- Displaying the Asthma First Aid posters in key locations.
- Regularly maintaining all asthma components of the Asthma Emergency Kit to ensure medication is current and the spacer device and mask (if necessary) are ready to use.
- Ensuring an Asthma Emergency Kit is taken for use during activities conducted off site.
- Ensuring that all regularly prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the student's asthma care plan.
- Identifying, and where possible, minimising asthma triggers as defined in student's asthma care plan.
- Recording details of any asthma attack and notify parents/carers.
- Ensuring that parents/carers of a student with asthma have been provided with a copy of this policy.
- Providing families with the contact details of the Asthma Foundation if further asthma advice is needed.



Asthma Policy Responsibilities

Parents/Carers Responsibilities

- Informing staff, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, that their child has asthma.
- Providing all relevant information regarding the student's asthma via the asthma care plan.
- Asthma care plans should be updated at least annually.
- Notifying the staff, in writing, of any changes to the asthma care plan, if this occurs, during the year.
- Providing an adequate supply of appropriate medication (reliever) , spacer device and mask if under 5 years of age, clearly labelled with the child's name including expiry dates.
- Notifying staff if the students health at any given time may have an impact on the child's condition.
- Reading and being familiar with this policy.



Asthma Policy Plan of Action

Students with diagnosed asthma

The staff, together with the parents/carers of a student with asthma, will discuss and agree on the plan of action for the emergency management of an asthma attack consistent with the information provided on the student's asthma care plan and/or the 4 step asthma first aid plan.

Administer asthma first aid according to the student's asthma care plan as signed by the parents/carers and doctor and/or doctor's written instructions.

If a plan is not available

Administer Standard Asthma First Aid

Step 1	Sit the person upright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be calm and reassuring - Do not leave them alone
Step 2	Give 4 puffs of a blue/grey reliever puffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shake puffer - Put 1 puff into spacer - Take 4 breaths from spacer - Repeat until 4 puffs have been taken
Step 3	Wait 4 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If there is no improvement, give 4 more puffs of the blue/grey reliever as above

If there is still little or no improvement

Step 4	Dial Triple Zero 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Say 'ambulance' and that someone is having an asthma attack - Keep giving 4 puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives
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- Contact parents/carers immediately to advise of the attack and action taken.
- Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.
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Asthma Policy Plan of Action

Students not known to have asthma

In the situation of a student not known to have asthma but experiencing breathing difficulties staff will administer asthma first aid according to Asthma Australia protocols

Administer Standard Asthma First Aid

Step 1	Sit the person upright	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be calm and reassuring - Do not leave them alone
Step 2	Give 4 puffs of a blue/grey reliever puffer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shake puffer - Put 1 puff into spacer - Take 4 breaths from spacer - Repeat until 4 puffs have been taken
Step 3	Wait 4 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If there is no improvement, give 4 more puffs of the blue/grey reliever as above

If there is still little or no improvement

Step 4	Dial Triple Zero 000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Say 'ambulance' and that someone is having an asthma attack - Keep giving 4 puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives
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- Contact parents/carers immediately to advise of the situation and action taken.
- Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.
- This treatment could be lifesaving for a student whose asthma has not been previously recognised and no harm is likely to result from giving a reliever puffer if the breathing difficulty was not due to asthma.



Asthma Policy

School Asthma Emergency Kit

School asthma emergency kits, containing a Ventolin and spacer, are located in the conference room, junior cluster and the kindy classes.

- In an emergency the blue reliever puffer can be the student's own, or accessed from the Asthma Emergency Kit.
- The Asthma Foundation recommends that only staff who are trained in Asthma First Aid should administer blue reliever medication from the Asthma Emergency Kit.
- Kits should be signed out and taken as part of the first aid kit when students leave school grounds for a school organised event or activity.

