

Pakenham Hills PS Asthma Policy

RATIONALE

Ensure that Pakenham Hills Primary School [PHPS] appropriately supports students diagnosed with asthma.

AIM

The aim of this policy is to:

- Provide appropriate management of asthma within the school environment.
- Ensure all asthma medications are managed and administered appropriately to students in our care.
- To explain to PHPS parents/carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students diagnosed with asthma.

IMPLEMENTATION

Asthma management

- 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.
- The First Aid Officer (or nominee) will maintain asthma medications, notifying parents/carers when medications are about to expire.
- The First Aid Officer (or nominee) will ensure all asthma medications are within the expiry date prior to use.

If a student diagnosed with asthma enrolls at PHPS:

1. 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 www.asthma.org.au
2. Parents/carers must provide the school with an Asthma Action Plan and a photo of the student to be included as part of the student's Asthma Action Plan. This plan should be completed by the student's medical practitioner. The plan must outline:
 - the prescribed medication taken by the student and when it is to be administered, for example as a pre-medication to exercise or on a regular basis
 - emergency contact details
 - the contact details of the student's medical practitioner
 - the student's known triggers
 - The emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an asthma flare-up or attack.
3. Parents/carers should also provide an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.
4. In line with confidentiality requirements, PHPS will keep all Asthma Action Plans stored in the Medical Conditions folder in sick bay.

5. School staff may also work with parents/carers to develop a Student Health Support Plan which will include details on:
 - how the school will provide support for the student
 - identify specific strategies
 - allocate staff to assist the student
6. If a student diagnosed with asthma is going to attend a school camp or excursion, PHPS parents/carers are required to provide any updated medical information.
7. If a student's asthma condition or treatment requirements change, parent/carers must notify the school and provide an updated Asthma Action Plan.
8. The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister, Ventolin or Asmol) and disposable spacer devices in all 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.

Student asthma kit

All students diagnosed with asthma are required to have a student asthma kit at school which contains:

- their own prescribed reliever medication labelled with the student's name
- their spacer (if they use one)
- all kits clearly named with student identification (photo) attached

Student asthma kits will be stored in the sick bay cupboard.

Asthma emergency response plan

If a student is:

- having an asthma attack
- difficulty breathing for an unknown cause, even if they are not known to have asthma

School staff will endeavour to follow the Asthma First Aid procedures outlined in the table below. School staff may contact Triple Zero "000" at any time.

Step	Action
1.	Sit the person upright <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be calm and reassuring • Do not leave them alone • Seek assistance from another staff member or reliable student to locate the student's reliever, the Asthma Emergency Kit and the student's Asthma Action Plan (if available). • If the student's action plan is not immediately available, use the Asthma First Aid as described in Steps 2 to 5. •
2.	Give 4 separate puffs of blue or blue/grey reliever puffer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shake the puffer • Use a spacer if you have one • Put 1 puff into the spacer • Take 4 breaths from the spacer

	Remember – Shake, 1 puff, 4 breaths
3.	Wait 4 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there is no improvement, give 4 more separate puffs of blue/grey reliever as above
4.	If there is still no improvement call Triple Zero “000” and ask for an ambulance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the operator the student is having an asthma attack Keep giving 4 separate puffs every 4 minutes until emergency assistance arrives
5.	If asthma is relieved after administering Asthma First Aid, stop the treatment and observe the student. Notify the student’s emergency contact person and record the incident

Staff will call Triple Zero “000” immediately if:

- the person is not breathing
- if the person’s asthma suddenly becomes worse or is not improving
- if the person is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available
- if they are not sure if it is asthma
- if the person is known to have anaphylaxis

Training for staff

Pakenham Hills Primary School will arrange asthma management training for all necessary staff. This may include but is not limited to:

Staff	Completed by	Course	Provider	Cost	Valid for
Group 1 General Staff	School staff with a direct teaching role with students affected by asthma or other school staff directed by the principal after conducting a risk assessment.	Asthma first aid management for education staff (non-accredited) One hour face-to-face or online training.	Asthma Australia	Free to all schools	3 years
Group 2 Specific Staff	Staff working with high risk children with a history of severe asthma, or with direct student wellbeing responsibility, (including nurses, PE/sport teachers, first aid and school staff attending camp).	<i>Course in Management of Asthma Risks and Emergencies in the Workplace 22282VIC</i> (accredited) OR <i>Course in Emergency Asthma Management 10392NAT</i> (accredited)	Any RTO that has this course in their scope of practice	Paid by	3 years

EVALUATION

Pakenham Hills Primary School is committed to ensuring this policy is publicised and implemented, and will monitor and review its effectiveness.

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

This policy does not require School Council Approval.

Dale Hendrick
Principal

Version	Date	Modification	Modified By
1			

DRAFT