



Asthma Policy

Rationale

At St Mary's Primary School we are committed to ensuring that the health needs of students with asthma are appropriately supported.

Aims

To have clear procedures for the identification, prevention, management and treatment of children who have a known risk of asthma.

Our Policy is based on advice from National Asthma council and Asthma Australia

<https://www.nationalasthma.org.au> and <https://asthma.org.au/>

Definition

"Asthma is a disease of the airways, the small tubes which carry air in and out of the lungs. When you have asthma symptoms the muscles in the airways tighten and the lining of the airways swells and produces sticky mucus. These changes cause the airways to become narrow, so that there is less space for the air to flow into an out of your lungs" (National Asthma Council 2011).

School Responsibility

Staff will be trained to respond if a student has an asthma attack.

In order to do this all staff will:

- Complete first aid training which includes First Aid management of Asthma (through a recognised provider) every two years.
- Be informed of students with Asthma within the school including visiting teachers/educators to the school

Asthma Medication storage

- Students will carry their ventolin in their school bag
- Students will take their own ventolin puffer to excursions/camps/sporting events
- The school will have an emergency ventolin pump and spacer in the First Aid Room.

Parent Responsibility

It is the parents' and/or primary caregivers' responsibility to notify staff at school of their child's asthma condition and any advice from medical practitioners of changes to their child's condition or care plan. It is parents' and/or primary caregivers' responsibility to upload this information onto CareMonkey.

Parents and/or primary carers are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate medication held at the school.

Parents will supply the school with an Individual Asthma Action Plan.

Before the beginning of the school year parents will:

- update Asthma Care Plan details on CareMonkey including
- upload current asthma action plan
- provide ventolin and spacer in school bag

- provide a spare ventolin to be stored in the First Aid Room

The image shows a vertical 'ASTHMA ACTION PLAN' form. At the top, it has a title and a small graphic of a person. Below the title are fields for 'NAME', 'ADDRESS', 'PHONE', 'GENDER', 'AGE', 'ALLERGY INFORMATION', 'MEDICATIONS', 'PHYSICIAN', and 'PHYSICIAN CONTACT NO.'. The form is divided into four main colored sections: 1. 'WHEN WELL' (green header) with instructions on how to use inhalers and when to call the doctor. 2. 'WHEN NOT WELL' (orange header) with instructions on when to use rescue inhalers and when to call the doctor. 3. 'IF SYMPTOMS GET WORSE' (red header) with instructions on when to use rescue inhalers and when to call the doctor. 4. 'DANGER SIGNS' (red header) with instructions on when to call 999 for an ambulance. At the bottom right, there is a logo for 'asthma.org.au' and 'nationalasthma.org.au'.

<https://www.nationalasthma.org.au/living-with-asthma/asthma-action-plans>

Evaluation

This policy was developed in 2020 and was reviewed in 2024 in line with the School Improvement Plan.

References

<https://asthma.org.au/>

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