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| TOPIC | Asthma Management |
| DOMAIN | Health |
| POLICY No. | |
| ORIGINALLY RELEASED | November 2013 |
| DATE FOR REVIEW | 2016 |

Our Vision

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School seeks to offer excellence in education, enlivened by the Life and teaching of Jesus Christ in a school community where the dignity of each person is valued.

School Motto

'Honor Pretiosor Auro'

Honour is more precious than gold

Our motto reminds us to look to Jesus Christ, whose life and teaching inspire us to live life with honour, seeking justice for all.

Policy Goal:

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

- All staff are aware of which individuals are asthmatic.
- All individuals who have asthma can receive appropriate attention as required.
- Staff can respond to the needs of those who have not been diagnosed with asthma and who have an asthma attack or difficulty breathing.
- 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. Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility.

Students will:

- Be supported to self manage their asthma in line with their age and stage of development.

Families will:

- Inform staff, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, if the student has a history of asthma.
- Provide all relevant information regarding the student's asthma via the Asthma Care Plan signed by the treating doctor.
- Provide their child's medication, clearly dated and in the original labelled container. A spacer device and mask as required should be provided.
- Ensure that all medication is within valid use by dates.
- Communicate all relevant information and concerns with staff as the need arises.
- Notify the staff, in writing, of any changes to the Asthma Care Plan during the year.

Staff will:

- Ensure that they maintain current training in managing an asthma emergency.
- Ensure that they are aware of anyone in their care with asthma.
- Make themselves aware of where Asthma Emergency Kits are stored.
- Ensure that all regular prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the information on the student's personal Asthma Care Plan.
- Promptly communicate, to the Principal and where applicable, families, any concerns about asthma limiting a student's ability to participate fully in all activities.
- Encourage asthmatics to carry their reliever medication and use their medication as soon as symptoms develop.
- Identify and, where possible, minimise asthma triggers.

Management will:

- Identify individuals with asthma during the enrolment process.
- Maintain a central record of student's health care needs, including Asthma and review regularly.
- Provide all staff with a copy of the Asthma Policy and brief them on asthma procedures upon their appointment to their position.
- Provide opportunity and encouragement for staff to attend regular asthma training inservice and ensure that at least one trained member of staff is present during all onsite and offsite activities and excursions.
- Provide an Asthma Care Plan to individuals with asthma upon enrolment/or diagnosis. The form is to be signed by the child's doctor and returned to school promptly.
- Ensure that all teachers are informed of those students with asthma in their care.
- Formalise and document school procedures for Asthma First Aid, for both individuals with a diagnosis of asthma, and those with no known diagnosis of asthma (first attack).
- Ensure that an Asthma First Aid posters are displayed in key locations in the school.
- Ensure that the Asthma Emergency Kits contain an in-date reliever medication, spacer device and mask (for children under 5) and written instructions on Asthma First Aid procedures.
- Provide a mobile Asthma Emergency Kit for use on excursions and activities offsite.
- Identify and where possible, minimise asthma triggers.
- Promptly communicate any concerns should it be considered that an individual's asthma is limiting his/her ability to participate fully in all school activities.
- Review policies and practices.

Monitoring and review

- This policy will be reviewed annually and earlier should the need arise to do so.

Asthma First Aid

Procedure if someone has an asthma attack.

In a case where someone is having an asthma attack, the staff should immediately:

Administer Asthma First Aid according to either:

- The provided Asthma Care Plan as signed by the parent and doctor and/ or doctor's written instructions

OR

- Follow the Asthma First Aid Plan below

AND if a first attack – Call an ambulance (Dial 000).

- Record any asthma incident in the accident /incident book.**

If someone has difficulty in breathing and there is no notification on any written communication form about the student having asthma call an ambulance immediately And follow the Asthma First Aid Plan. No harm is likely to result from giving a reliever puffer to someone without asthma.

Step 1 Sit the person upright, stay calm and offer reassurance. Do not leave the person alone.

Step 2 Without delay, give 4 **separate** puffs of a blue reliever puffer medication, via spacer. **Shake the puffer and put 1 puff into spacer. Take 4 breaths from spacer.** Repeat until 4 puffs have been taken .(*remember shake 1 puff,4 breaths*)

Step 3 Wait four minutes. If there is little or no improvement repeat steps one and two.

Step 4 If there is still no improvement call an ambulance immediately (Dial 000). Say 'ambulance and that someone is having an asthma attack'

Continue to repeat steps two and three while waiting for the ambulance.

If 000 does not work on your mobile phone – try 112.
