**Rationale**

* Hampton Primary School is an Asthma friendly school and follows the Victorian School Asthma Policy Guidelines. The school will comply with the school policy advisory guide and seek advice from the asthma foundation when updating the school policy.
* People with Asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which react to triggers.
* Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking. This is often due to muscles around the airways tightening, the airway becoming narrow and more mucus being produced.
* Children and adults with asthma require medication; however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
* Asthma is a chronic health condition that affects many primary school children, teenagers and adults. It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in the school environment.
* The school recognises the importance of involvement and engagement with parents and carers of students and the ability of students to self- manage their asthma where appropriate.

# Purpose

* To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school and to ensure students feel safe and supported at school.
* To provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all school activities to their full potential.
* To ensure the asthma policy is communicated to all staff within the school including volunteers.
* To comply with Victorian Asthma Guidelines.

# Scope

This policy applies to:

* all staff, including casual relief staff, contractors and volunteers
* all students who have been diagnosed with asthma or who may require emergency treatment for asthma and their parents/carers.

# Implementation/ Process

* The school will provide an annually updated list of students with asthma management plans. These will be available to all staff (including volunteers), specialists and Casual Relief Teachers (CRT’s). They will be kept in the First Aid Room in folders marked Asthma. Each classroom teacher will have a class medical folder which will include a list of known Asthmatic children in their class.
* Professional learning (through the school nurses) will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. This will ensure the school staff are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma in the school setting. Asthma First Aid management will be displayed on the walls of the staffroom and the First Aid room. Online training is also available to staff.
* The school nurses and several specialist and senior staff members will also engage in professional learning and be accredited in the Emergency Asthma Course which includes Thunderstorm Asthma Management.
* The school will maintain its asthma friendly school status by undertaking professional learning conducted by the Asthma Foundation, or an accredited provider every 3 years.
* The School Nurse will ensure that all students with asthma have an up to date (annual) written Asthma Action Plan (including a photo), consistent with Asthma Victoria’s requirements completed by their doctor, paediatrician or parent. A proforma is available at www.asthma.org.au. These plans will be available in the first aid room in an asthma folder. The child’s records will also state their asthma status. An Individual Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan will also be developed in consultation with the student’s parents for any student diagnosed with asthma by a medical practitioner. This will include in school and out of school settings such as excursions and camps. The parents are to notify the school if these plans change throughout the year.
* Students with Asthma will be encouraged to participate in all camps and special events. Medication will be available for their use.
* Parents will fill out the Asthma Foundation School Camp Medical Forms prior to camp.
* The school will reduce Asthma triggers and implement risk minimisation strategies for students with asthma, in the aim of preventing asthma attacks at school. Eg. Plant low allergen trees, limit dust by regular cleaning out of hours
* The school will act on advice from the Department of Education and Training (DET) Emergency Management Division associated with a potential Thunderstorm Asthma activity.
* Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times and communicate any changes to the student’s Asthma symptoms or severity to the school staff.
* The nurse will be responsible for regularly checking all school based puffers (students’ puffers, first aid kits and Asthma emergency kits) to ensure they are within expiry dates.
* Each First Aid Bag will have Asthma medication and disposable spacers for emergency use. The school nurses will check these regularly for expiry dates.
* The school will have Asthma emergency kits if required by staff and students with medication, spacer and written instructions.
* The schools asthma policy is available on Compass. Asthma information communicated to families will also be sent out on Compass throughout the year.
* If a child has an asthma attack at school a first aid note will be sent home or a Compass email will be sent alerting parents. In more serious cases the parent will be contacted by phone.
* Students who have Exercise Induced Bronchospasm (EIB) will be able to use their reliever medication as required.
* The schools emergency response management plan will be implemented should a severe asthma attack occur.
* All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication are to be the child’s own or disposable.
* Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
* Reliever medication should be used at school. Preventer and combination medication should only be used at school if an overnight camp / excursion or combination medication is prescribed by a doctor as a reliever medication.
* Any student who requires a disposable spacer for their asthma will incur the cost of the spacer which is $6.
* Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan by the School Nurse or a Level 2 trained staff member. If this is the first attack or no plan is available, the school will follow the Victorian Schools’ Asthma Policy which has been written by Asthma Australia. (See the Flowchart attachment.)
* If no plan is available children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer. They will be instructed to inhale 4 deep breaths per puff. After waiting 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second 4-minute wait period, or if it is the child’s first known attack. Parents must be contacted whenever a child either suffers an asthma attack for the first time or the attack is significant, requiring more than a full dose treatment of a reliever puffer (4 puffs).
* Older children will be encouraged to manage their own asthma with support from the school.

# Further information and resources

**References:**

* Vic Govt schools reference guide
* Asthma Victoria
* Asthma First Aid Flow Chart – see attachment
* Asthma First Aid – see attachment

**Links**:

* www.asthma.org.au
* www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au
* www.asthmaaustralia.org.au
* www.eduweb.vic.gov.au

# Evaluation and Review

The section states the time period that School Council (via the relevant Committee) will conduct a review of the Policy; either annually or every 3 years as determined by School Council or DET guidelines.

All policies will be available to the community via the Compass portal.

# Revision and approval history

The section records the history and review of each policy.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Reviewed by** | **Description of outcome** | **Council Approval Date** |
| **June 2017** | **School Nurses** |  |  |
| **May 2018** | **School Nurses** |  |  |
| **13/08/2018** | **Education Subcommittee** | **Recommendation for ratification by School Council** | **21/08/2018** |
|  |  |  |  |