

Mernda Hills Christian College

Asthma Management Policy



Document Control

Revision Number	Review Date	Implementation Date	Description of Changes	Prepared By	Approved By
Gilson College – Mernda Campus					
	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General review	Exec Leaders	Gilson College Council
Mernda Hills Christian College					
1	May 2023	Jan 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General reviewAdded link to Asthma Basic facts In 'Resources' list	Exec Leaders	Exec Leaders
2	Aug 2024	Aug 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">General review	Exec Leaders	Exec Leaders

Rationale

'About one in nine people in Australia have asthma, one of the highest rates in the world.' In young children is one of the most common causes of hospital admission and visits to the doctor and can be life-threatening. <https://asthma.org.au/about-asthma/>

It is important therefore for all staff members of Mernda Hills Christian College to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

Implementation

1. Symptoms of asthma attacks commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
2. Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication, but severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
3. Training will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall.
4. All students with asthma must have a current (annual) written *Asthma Management Plan* consistent with *Asthma Victoria's* requirements completed by their doctor or pediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au.
5. Written Asthma Plans will be attached to the student's records in SEQTA for reference.
6. 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.
7. The school will provide, and have staff trained in the use of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as *Ventolin*, *Airomir*, *Asmol* or *Bricanyl* and 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. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
8. The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and ensuring out-of-date puffers are replaced.
9. A nebuliser pump will not be provided by the school staff to a student for use unless a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device.
10. All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
11. First Aid care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
12. Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their written asthma plan.
13. 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 – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 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.
14. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack, and the medical incident recorded in Seqta.

Related Policies and Processes

- Anaphylaxis Management Policy
- Anaphylaxis Communication Plan
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Distribution of Medications policy
- Duty of Care Policy
- First Aid Policy
- OH&S Policy

Relevant Documentation or Legislation

- Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (Vic)

Resources

- Asthma Basic Facts
https://asthma.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/AA2022_Asthma-Basic-Facts-A4_v9_web.pdf