

Asthma Policy

Status: Aug 2014. Review School Council

Rationale:

Asthma is a chronic lung condition that affects up to one in four primary aged children. Asthma can be recognised by symptoms including: difficulty in breathing or breathlessness, wheezing, coughing, tightness in the chest and difficulty in speaking. Every person's asthma is different. Known triggers of asthma include: Colds, flu, chest infections, exercise, pollens, dust, dust mites, temperature changes and smoke. As an Asthma friendly school, all staff are aware of asthma, its triggers and symptoms and the management of asthma in the school environment.

Aims:

- To increase awareness and understanding of asthma and to support the whole school community in the effective management of asthma in all educational circumstances. (Asthma friendly school model)
- To educate students, teachers and the school community as to the causes, symptoms and procedures in managing asthma.

Guidelines:

Asthma Friendly Schools Guidelines: Rolling Hills Primary School is an accredited Asthma Friendly School.

Implementation:

- Staff are provided with professional development, as mandated, at least every 3 years, incorporating the identification and management of asthma and how to assess an asthma emergency.
- The school will identify susceptible students and known allergens.
- The school will identify and, where practicable minimize asthma triggers as much as possible. Considering mowing lawns outside of school hours and limiting dust by vacuuming carpets daily.
- Parents need to register their child as an asthma sufferer on the school enrolment form and update their child's Asthma Management Plans at the beginning of each year with all pertinent information, this includes maintaining medical information on the Care Monkey system.
- An asthma register will be kept in the sickbay, recording medications and treatment to be used in cases of deteriorating asthma.
- Classroom teachers and specialists will be issued with up to date lists of students in their class with medical alerts, including asthma.
- All student medical alerts, including asthma plans, are also located in each classroom profile CRT folder.
- Charts of the basic Asthma Emergency Action Plan are displayed in the First Aid room, staff room, classrooms and the school office
- Parents are responsible for ensuring their child has an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including spacer) with them at all times, and monitoring expiry dates.
- Parents need to prepare their child to self manage their condition, by training in the use of medication, and encouraging the reporting any symptoms of discomfort, without delay.
- RHPS will provide and maintain at least two asthma emergency first aid kits - one to keep at the school, and a mobile kit for activities such as excursions and camps. This will include blue reliever puffers (Airomir, Asmol, Ventolin) and disposable spacer devices, located in the sickbay and in each first aid kit. Appropriately aged students are encouraged to carry and/or have direct access to their own medication.
- For school camps, excursions and sporting events, teachers, preferably first aid trained, will hold each student Asthma Management Plan and be responsible for administering or overseeing the child self administer, preventer asthma medications.
- The administration staff will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and replacing as necessary. They will be responsible for ensuring all components of the asthma emergency kits are appropriately stocked.
- Children showing signs of asthma will be treated in accordance with their asthma plan. If treatment relieves symptoms, the treatment will be recorded in the sickbay log and a copy of the log sent home with the student.
- If no asthma plan is available, the process as outlined on the 'Asthma First Aid' Asthma Friendly Schools poster will be followed and the parents contacted.

Evaluation:

The Asthma Policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle by the Education Sub-committee.

References: School Policy and Advisory Guide –

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/pages/asthma.aspx>

Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide – Environment 4.5 Student Health (4.5.10.3 – Asthma)

Asthma Website – <http://www.asthma.org.au/>

Asthma Friendly Schools Criteria – www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au