

GLENDAL PRIMARY SCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY

Rationale

Asthma is a chronic Health condition affecting approximately 10% of Australian children and teenagers. Asthma is one of the most common reasons for child admissions to hospital and missed days of school. Asthma exacerbations can commonly occur while attending schools at particular times of the year.

In order to meet the duty of care obligations specified by the school Policy and Advisory guide and to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students attending, Glendal Primary School recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy. 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.

Reference: “Australian Centre for Asthma Monitoring (2011), “Asthma in Australia: with a focus chapter on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease”, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra 2011”

Guidelines

The Asthma Policy will be communicated to the school community:

- To ensure the school community are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma in the school setting
- To provide the necessary information to effectively manage students asthma while attending school.

Implementation

A school management plan, detailing implementing strategies and processes, will be developed to ensure a safe and supportive environment for students with asthma. This will include:

- Providing regular asthma education and first aid and asthma training for staff
- Identifying students with asthma during the enrolment process and providing parents and carers with an Asthma Action Plan to be completed by the child’s medical practitioner
- Where possible, ensuring that all students with asthma have a current Asthma action plan which is updated at least annually
- Ensuring that a School Camp and Excursion Medical update form is completed for off-site activities
- Where possible, ensuring that the parents and careers of students with asthma provide reliever medication and a spacer (and a face mask if required) at all times that their child attends school
- Implementing an asthma first aid procedure consistent with current national recommendations
- Ensuring adequate provision and maintenance of asthma emergency kits for the school which contain reliever medication, two spacer devices, instructions outlining the first aid procedure and a record form with provision for expiry date checks and replacement of used spacers
- Facilitating communication between management, staff, parents, carers and students regarding the schools asthma management policy and strategies
- Promptly communicating to parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students attending the school
- Identifying and minimising where possible triggers of asthma symptoms for students attending the school
- Ensuring the students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way
- Ensuring that students with asthma can participate in the school’s activities safely and to their best potential
- **STAFF WILL:**
 - Ensure that they are aware of the school’s asthma management policy

- Ensure that they are aware of the asthma first aid procedure
- Ensure that they are aware of students with asthma and where their medication and personal spacers are stored
- Ensure they attend asthma education and training when required
- Ensure that are aware of where to access Asthma Action Plans, School Camp and Excursion Medical Update forms and emergency asthma kits
- Identify and minimise, where possible, asthma triggers for students attending the school
- Ensure that students are not discriminated against in any way
- Ensure that students with asthma can participate in the school's activities safely and to their best potential
- Promptly communicate to the principal, school nurse, parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students enrolled at the school
- **PARENTS AND CARERS WILL:**
 - Inform the school if their child has asthma on enrolment or diagnosis
 - Read the school's asthma management policy
 - Provide a signed Asthma Action Plan with a current colour photo to the school updated yearly or more frequently if their child's condition changes
 - Provide a School Camp or Excursion Medical Update Form as required or when requested by the school
 - Provide the school with their child's reliever medication along with a spacer (required for puffer medication) for all times the child is attending the school
 - In conjunction with the school assess the child's ability to self-manage prior to their reliever medication and spacer being discharged from the Health Centre
 - Promptly communicate all medical and health information relevant to their child to the school nurse, principal and staff of the school
 - Communicate any changes to their child's asthma or any concerns about the current health of their child
- **STUDENTS WILL:**
 - Immediately inform staff if they experience asthma symptoms
 - Be willing to be assessed concerning their ability to self-manage their asthma at school
 - Inform the school nurse or staff if they have self-administered any asthma medication
 - Have their asthma medication and spacer with them at all times if they are self-managing asthma symptoms
- **ASTHMA EMERGENCY KITS:**
 - Will be available in strategic areas of the school, Health Centre, Hall, Resource room
 - Will contain asthma first aid instructions, reliever medication, two spacer devices, a form for recording medication administration and contact procedures

Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed regularly in line with the Policy review process

