Asthma Policy

Movelle School Values:
Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Learning, Teamwork

Movelle Primary School values continual learning and encourages respect, resilience, teamwork and responsibility in all that we do.

Description:

Students with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs. When exposed to certain triggers their airways narrow, making it hard for them to breathe. All school staff need to be aware of how to assess and manage an asthma emergency and the importance of daily asthma management.

Symptoms of asthma commonly include:

- Coughing
- Tightness in the chest
- Shortness of breath/rapid breathing
- Wheezing (whistling noise in chest)

Purpose:

To manage asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible, at school and in the Out of School Hours Care program.

To ensure staff have adequate knowledge about asthma and its treatment.

Implementation:

1. Every student with asthma should have a written Asthma Action Plan, completed by the child’s doctor in consultation with the student’s carer/parent. Appendix 1
2. The Asthma Action Plan is housed in the First Aid Room and updated regularly
3. If a student is repeatedly experiencing asthma symptoms and/or using an excessive amount of reliever medication, their parents/carers should be notified so that appropriate medical consultation can be arranged
4. Asthma Plans must include:
   - Details on what to do and details of medications to be used in cases of deteriorating asthma
   - Name address and telephone number of an emergency contact
   - Name address and telephone number of the student’s doctor
5. The school will have emergency asthma kits located in different areas of the school: Prep, 1/ 2, 5/ 6, 3 /4 Unit Bases, First Aid room and Gym
6. Emergency asthma kits will include: blue reliever puffer, spacer device, clear instructions on how to use these medications and devices

7. A staff member will be delegated to regularly check expiry dates

8. Students judged to be having a severe asthma attack require emergency medical assistance and an ambulance will be called

9. When a student has an asthma attack and an Asthma Action Plan, The Asthma First Aid procedure should be taken immediately; if no Action Plan the following procedure should be followed:

   Step 1: Sit student upright and reassure
   Step 2: Give 4 separate puffs of a blue reliever (best through a spacer device).
   The student is asked to take 4 breaths from the pacer after each puff of medication
   Step 3: Wait 4 minutes, if there is little improvement repeat Steps 2 and 3.
   Step 4: If no improvement, call an ambulance, continuously repeating Step 2 and 3 while waiting for an ambulance.

10. Contact parents and carers after calling ambulance and record action.

11. If students are attending camps/excursions, staff should:
   - Take the appropriate number of emergency asthma kits, Asthma action plans.
   - Check there is an enough medication for the period

   **Evacuation**

   In the event of an evacuation procedure, a staff member will be nominated to collect asthma emergency kit together with student Asthma Action Plans

   **Evaluation:**

   This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.

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<td>Reviewed</td>
<td>July 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Council President signature &amp; date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsible for Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review Date</td>
<td>July 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>References</td>
<td>Victorian Government Schools Policy Advisory Guide</td>
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