

# Asthma Policy

## Purpose

Carrum Downs Secondary College is committed to the safety of all children and young people.

Asthma affects one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. Therefore, it is important for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Common symptoms include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.

People with mild asthma rarely require medication. However, severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication, particularly after exercise.

## Aim

- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

## Implementation

- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Appropriate information will be displayed on the staffroom noticeboard.
- 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.
- Carrum Downs Secondary College staff will be trained in the administration of reliever puffers such as Ventolin or Bricanyl and spacer devices which will be included in all first-aid kits, including those kits taken on excursions and camps. Reliever puffers are kept in each house office, in the gym and at the main office. 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.
- The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking expiry dates on reliever puffers.
- School provided spacers are now single-person use only. Once used, the spacer can be given to that person and replaced in the first aid kit. Children experiencing an asthma attack should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan. There is a section on the College's enrolment form which is completed by parents and requires details of symptoms and medications. A formal Asthma Management Plan, which is drawn up by the student's doctor, is attached to the enrolment form and kept in the student's file.
- If no plan is available the student should 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's the child's first known attack. Parents will be notified in these situations or if they have requested notification in the appropriate section on the enrolment form.

**Evaluation:** This policy will be reviewed as part of the College's review cycle

**Related policies:** School Policy Advisory Guide – <http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

*This policy was endorsed by the College Council in June, 2016*