

## ASTHMA POLICY

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<b>Approved By</b>	School Council
<b>Approval Authority (Signature &amp; Date)</b>	
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<b>References</b>	Asthma Management Handbook 2006. National Asthma Council Australia

### BASIC BELIEFS

In Australia one in every six children live with asthma, which is a chronic, life-threatening disease. It is therefore important that YCP12 provides a safe and supportive environment for students with asthma, and that staff members are aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

### AIMS

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

### GUIDELINES FOR ACTION

- Asthma education is provided annually for all school staff.
- Asthma Action Plans for each student with asthma are updated on a yearly basis. These are stored with the First Aid officer.
- A confidential medical information sheet will be provided to all staff on a yearly basis, and this will indicate students that have asthma.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.
- Students are responsible for ensuring that they carry their asthma medication with them at all times, particularly for Physical Education and Sport, and any excursions.
- The school will provide reliever medication (Ventolin) 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 the steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks. Kits will also contain alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
- Care will be provided for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering asthma attacks will be treated in accordance with their asthma plan. If no plan is available the following will occur:
  1. Sit the student comfortably upright and reassure them
  2. Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever puffer delivered via a spacer if possible.
  3. Give 1 puff at a time and ask the child to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
  4. Use own child's puffer if possible or borrow one from someone else.
  5. Wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle.
  6. 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.
  7. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers a severe asthma attack.