



BOORAGOON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Telephone 6274 1800



Asthma Awareness Policy

RATIONALE

Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children. It is important for all staff members to be aware of asthma in a school environment.

BACKGROUND

- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways, making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication, however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication, particularly after exercise.

MANAGEMENT

1. All students with asthma will be required to submit to the school annually an up-to-date written asthma management plan completed by their doctor or paediatrician.
2. Children suffering asthma attacks will be treated in accordance with their asthma management plan, or if a plan is not available in accordance with the standard asthma processes (see point 12 below).
3. Asthma management plans will be attached to the student's records for reference, posted in staff/medical rooms and in each teacher's classroom.
4. Staff will follow the specific management plan provided for a child who presents with an asthma attack.
5. Parents/ caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times. All items must be clearly labelled.
6. Parents of students who have an asthma diagnosis are responsible for ensuring that the child is familiar with a spacer device so that use in an emergency does not cause panic.
7. The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administration of reliever puffer (blue canister).
8. Ventolin and spacer devices will be held in the first-aid room and included in kits for excursions and camps. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in each kit, along with steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs (single use only) to clean devices after use.
9. The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and ensuring spacers have been cleaned.
10. A school camp asthma management plan medical form must be completed and returned to the staff member in charge for a student to participate in a school camp. A teacher will be responsible for administering 'preventer' medications on camp.
11. Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack, including students not known to have asthma.
12. If no plan is available call an ambulance immediately (dial 000) Children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister)

delivered via the spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. Contact parent/carer.

13. Teachers must communicate with parents when students have an asthma attack or show symptoms in class. The incident must be recorded.

EDUCATION AND PROMOTION

- Teachers will update their knowledge about asthma through short presentations, printed information and professional development. Charts of asthma management will be on display in the sick room, staff room and duty file.
- Staff will be aware of specific students via photography / information in staff room, sick room, classroom and duty file.
- Relief staff will be provided with this information in the daily work pad in the classroom they are working in. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure this information is up to date and accessible.
- Staff to take asthma kit, medications and management plans on any camps, excursions, and swimming lessons. If the classroom teacher is not attending the event, it is their responsibility to relay relevant information and medication to the attending staff member. All staff involved in the activity/excursion must be fully briefed as to the management plan beforehand.
- Parents and caregivers are informed of the Asthma Awareness Policy at the beginning of the school year.
- New families to the school community are provided with the policy in the enrolment information pack.
- Parents of asthmatic children are to ensure that their child/ren understand the condition, the triggers and the symptoms. The child/ren also needs to know what to do if they believe they are having an attack.
- All students are to receive education to understand asthma and be aware of those students who are affected and how they can assist in the management of their condition.
- The Asthma First Aid poster, outlining the treatment system, is to be displayed in the medical room and the staff room.