

Loxton Lutheran School

ASTHMA FRIENDLY SCHOOLS POLICY

POLICY GOAL

All students at the school who are known to have asthma are supported via Asthma Friendly policies and procedures and all students, staff and visitors can access Asthma First Aid in an emergency.

WHAT IS ASTHMA?

Asthma is a long-term lung condition. People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which react to certain triggers. The muscles around the airway squeeze tight, the airways swell and become narrow and there is more mucus. These reactions make it harder to breathe.

One in nine people in Australia have asthma. It affects people of all ages. Asthma cannot be cured, but for most people it can be well controlled by following a daily management plan.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF ASTHMA?

A person's asthma symptoms can vary over time - sometimes they will have no symptoms, especially when their asthma is well-controlled. Symptoms often vary from person to person, but they are most commonly:

- breathlessness
- wheezing
- tight feeling in the chest
- continuing cough

Symptoms can occur at any time. They are caused by the narrowing of the airways.

POLICY COMMITMENT

We are committed to being an Asthma Friendly school as outlined by Asthma Australia. This means:

- The majority of staff have current training in Asthma First Aid and routine management, conducted or approved by the local Asthma Foundation
- Asthma Emergency Kits (AEKs) are accessible to staff and include in-date reliever medication and single person use spacers
- Asthma First Aid posters are on display and information is available for staff and parents
- Policies are Asthma friendly

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENTS:

- Are supported to self-manage their asthma in line with their age and stage of development: we explain asthma and asthma care to the students and provide them with the necessary care.

PARENTS/CARERS:

- Provide an Asthma care plan, signed by the treating doctor
- Provide their child's medication, clearly named, dated and in the original labelled container. A spacer, and mask if required, should also be supplied.
- Alert staff to any changes in their child's asthma management.

FIRST AID OFFICER / STAFF:

- Ensures AEK are stocked and readily available
- Checks Ventolin expiry dates
- Notifies parent/carer when the medication needs replacing.
- Document any asthma attack
- Advises parents/carers of an asthma attack
- Have a spacer replacement policy, (Any used spacer from the AEK is named and given to the student, for their own use in the future – otherwise they need to be disposed of thoughtfully.)
- Review documentation regularly to ensure compliance with procedures
- Minimise exposure to known triggers

MANAGEMENT

- Meet all legal, regulatory and policy requirements related to health care planning and asthma management within the service
- Maintain a central record of students health care needs, including asthma, and review regularly
- Induct all new staff in asthma policies and procedures including asthma training and information for all staff
- Review policies and practices

Date ratified by school council – 28h February 2017

Review Required 2020