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*Westgarth Primary School is a community of students, staff, friends and family working together to create a diverse, engaging and respectful learning environment.*

### **Rationale:**

- Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

### **Aims:**

- To make, as far as possible, Westgarth Primary School a safe and supportive environment in which students with asthma can participate equally in all aspects of schooling.
- To provide competent and timely support and care for students with asthma while in the care of the school.
- To ensure students with asthma have a written asthma management plan in place and it is kept updated.
- To clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of parents/carers and staff
- To inform the community of the potential for Thunderstorm asthma events and train the staff to respond to this risk accordingly.

### **Actions:**

- Professional development will be provided via annual online training for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall and First Aid areas.
- All students with asthma must have a current written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria's requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan proformas are available at [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
- Asthma plans will be kept in the asthma register in the First Aid room and updated annually with a current photo. A medical alert is recorded on the child's enrolment in the schools electronic database.
- All students with asthma plans will be identified by a current photo which will be included in the class roll.
- Students with asthma will be identified during the enrolment process.
- Parents/ carers are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including an individual spacer) with them at school at all times. P-2 stored either in sick bay or in student classrooms, 3-6 students stored on Clarke street in students bags or classrooms.

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- Staff will provide parents/carers with a generic note if students have self-administered a reliever.
  - WPS will follow The Asthma Foundation Victoria Guidelines and require all students to have an individual spacer at school.
  - Staff to be familiar with the risk of thunderstorm asthma phenomenon's when there are high pollen counts and during thunderstorms.
  - Open communication between parents/ carers and staff will be encouraged regarding the child's asthma status.
  - The school will provide, and have staff trained annually in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices in all first-aid kits, including kits on excursions, sporting events and camps. 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 school supplied reliever puffer expiry dates and the purchase of medication and spacer devices.
  - A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student's asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with the DEECD School Policy and Advisory Guide (SPAG). If an Asthma Care Plan does state the use of a nebuliser for a student it is up to the parent to provide the nebuliser, organise nebuliser training for staff and also maintain and service nebuliser parts.
  - In an emergency any devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
  - Care must be provided by a staff member immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack and monitored for the duration of the attack.
  - Students suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.
  - Parents/Carers will be notified of an asthma attack either by phone, in person or via our first aid written notice. [Please note students administer Ventolin independently as required on their asthma plan]
  - If no plan is available and/or a student is having difficulty breathing whether or not the student is known to have asthma, the asthma action plan must be followed.

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Students are to be sat upright, 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 is the child’s first known attack. In the absence of a parent, a staff member will accompany the student in the ambulance. Parents will be contacted as soon as practical.

**Evaluation:**

- Maintain Westgarth Primary School as a member of the Asthma Friendly School Program. AFSP [Refer to Asthma Friendly School certificate 2014 -2017]
- WPS will comply with the necessary staff professional development updates to remain a member of the AFSP
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

**Supporting Documents:**

- Asthma Friendly School Document
- [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)
- Process for Asthma Management

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