

St Roch's Parish Primary School

Asthma Management



St Roch's Parish Primary School acknowledges the school's responsibility to develop and maintain an Asthma Management Policy.

Statement

Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 10% of Australian children and teenagers. Asthma is one of the most common reasons for child admissions to hospital and missed days of school. Asthma exacerbations can commonly occur while attending schools, particularly in February and May.

In order to meet the duty of care obligations and to ensure the health and wellbeing of all students, St Roch's recognises the importance of staff education and the implementation of an asthma policy.

Asthma management plans must be placed on Care Monkey and updated on an annual basis or if there is a change of asthma management plan.

In order to meet the duty of care obligations, St Roch's will:

- Obtain a written asthma plan for all students diagnosed with asthma upon enrolment at the school and ensure they are updated at least annually (Office Manager to contact parents at the start of the school year).
- Store medical information and medications appropriately.
- Ensure that students feel safe and supported at school.
- Support student healthcare needs.
- Ensure all permanent staff members undertake asthma management training.

Scope

- To ensure the whole school community (principal, staff, volunteers, parents and carers and students) are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma in the school setting.
- To provide the necessary information to effectively manage episodes of asthma within the school.

Responsibilities

The Principal and Leadership Team will:

- Provide staff with a copy of the school's asthma management policy and ensure staff are aware of the asthma management strategies upon commencing employment at the school.
- Provide asthma education and first aid training for staff on an annual basis
- Provide parents and carers with a copy of the school's asthma policy upon enrolment of their child.
- Identify students with asthma during the enrolment process and request parents and carers provide a written asthma plan completed and signed by the child's medical practitioner.
- Where possible, ensure that all students with asthma have a current written asthma plan (must be updated at least annually).
- Ensure a school camp and excursion medical update form is completed by parents/carers for offsite activities where possible.
- Ensure the parents and carers of all students with asthma provide reliever medication and a spacer (and a face mask if required) at all times their child attends the school.
- Implement an asthma first aid procedure consistent with current national recommendations and all staff are aware of the asthma first aid procedure.
- Ensure adequate provision and maintenance of asthma emergency kits are replaced regularly and have not expired
- Facilitate communication between leadership, staff, parents and carers, and students regarding the school's asthma management policy and strategies.

- Promptly communicate to parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students attending the school.
- Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students.
- Ensure that students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way.
- Ensure that students with asthma can participate in all activities safely and to their fullest abilities.

Staff will:

- Be aware the school’s asthma management policy.
- Be aware of the asthma first aid procedure.
- Be aware of students with asthma and where their medication and personal spacers are stored.
- Attend asthma education and training sessions when required.
- Be aware of where to access written asthma plans, school camp and excursion medical update forms, and asthma emergency kits.
- Identify and minimise, where possible, triggers of asthma symptoms for students.
- Ensure that students with asthma are not discriminated against in any way.
- Ensure that students with asthma can participate in activities safely and to their fullest abilities.
- Promptly communicate to the principal, parents and carers any concerns regarding asthma and students enrolled in the school.

Parents and Carers will:

- Inform the school if their child has asthma upon enrolment.
- Read the school’s asthma management policy.
- Provide a signed written asthma plan to the school, and ensure that it is updated at least yearly.
- Provide a school camp or excursion medical update form as required.
- Provide the school with their child’s reliever medication along with a spacer (required for ‘puffer’ medication) for all times the child is attending the school, unless the child is carrying the medication and spacer for self-management purposes.
- Ensure that if their child is self-managing their asthma correctly the child carries their reliever medication and spacer at all times.
- Promptly communicate all medical and health information relevant to their child, to the principal and staff of the school.
- Communicate any changes to their child’s asthma or any concerns about the health of their child.

Students will:

- Immediately inform staff if they experience asthma symptoms.
- Inform staff if they have self-administered any asthma medication.
- Carry asthma medication and a spacer with them at all times (if self-managing their asthma).

Asthma Emergency Kits should contain:

- Reliever medication

Evaluation	This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.
Date of Ratification	27 May 2015
Date of Review	Updated October 2018
Source	St Roch’s