

Burton Primary School Policy and Procedure for Supporting Students with Asthma

Overview

This policy ensures that Burton Primary School provides safe, supportive, and informed practices to manage asthma and respond to asthma-related emergencies. It aligns with guidelines from the Department for Education and Asthma Australia.

Burton Primary School is committed to:

1. Supporting students with asthma by fostering an environment that promotes their health, wellbeing, and full participation in school activities.
2. Implementing effective asthma management plans in collaboration with parents/carers, health professionals, and trained staff.
3. Ensuring compliance with national and local regulations for asthma management in educational settings.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students with asthma.
- Parents and carers of students with asthma.
- Teachers, staff, first aiders, and other personnel directly involved in the care and education of students.

Roles and Responsibilities

Principal:

- Ensure systems are in place, staff are trained, and procedures are followed.

Parents/Carers:

- Notify the school of asthma conditions.
- Provide and keep up to date completed Asthma Action Plans. [Asthma Care Plan](#)
- Supply necessary medication.

School Staff:

- Ensure asthma care plans are followed at all times.

- Maintain asthma emergency kits appropriately stocked.
- Undertake asthma-specific training and provide effective support.
- Respond promptly and appropriately during asthma emergencies.

Health Professionals:

- Collaborate with parents/carers and school staff to create asthma action plans.
- Provide expertise in managing asthma needs and medication agreements.

Procedure

Asthma Management

1. Health Support Plans:

- Parents or carers must notify the school if their child has asthma.
- An **Asthma Action Plan** completed with a health professional should be provided to the school.
- Health information must be kept updated, and changes communicated promptly.

[Asthma Care Plan](#)

2. Asthma Emergency Kits:

- The school will maintain asthma emergency kits in all teacher first aid bags, containing:
 - Reliever inhalers (e.g., Airomir®, Asmol®, Ventolin®, Zempreon®).
 - Single-person use spacer devices (at least 2).
 - Clear asthma first aid instructions.
 - Medication record logs.
 - Stickers to label spacers.
 - Masks for children under 5 (if required), will be in all reception classes and emergency kits
- Used spacers will be labelled for individual reuse or disposed of appropriately.
- Emergency kits must be replenished after each use.

3. Self-Administration of Medication

- **Eligibility:**
 - The decision for students to carry and self-administer medication is made by the principal or a delegated authority after consultation with the parent/guardian and the child involved.
 - This process involves completing the Decision-Making Tool for Medication Administration to evaluate the student's responsibility and understanding.

- **Conditions for Self-Administration:**

- Students can recognise symptoms and seek support when needed.
- They are competent in using the correct administration technique for their medication.
- They understand and follow safe storage and usage practices.

[hsp154-decision-making-tool-for-medication-administration.docx](#)

4. Storage and Availability of Medication

General Provisions:

- Clear labelling of storage locations for emergency medications locations is communicated to staff and appropriately marked for easy identification.
- Identified staff perform routine checks of the medication storage areas, ensuring all items remain within expiry and ready for use.

Ventolin® and Asthma Relievers

At Burton Primary School we ensure:

- **Accessibility:** Asthma reliever inhalers (e.g., Ventolin®) must be available at all times, including during physical education, breaks, and off-site events.
- **Emergency Supply Storage:**
 - Teacher duty bags in each module, gym, and library will contain relievers and standard emergency kits.
 - These kits enable immediate access during asthma episodes to ensure effective management without delay.
- **Student-Specific Medications:**
 - Parents/carers may provide consent enabling their child to carry their reliever inhaler on their person throughout the day.
 - Consent ensures all requirements align with school procedures and prevent misuse concerns.

5. Asthma First Aid Training:

1. At least one designated first aider is trained in emergency first aid with asthma-specific content.
2. Designated first aiders and first aiders in school are required to hold <https://training.gov.au/Training/Details/HLTAID012>, which includes anaphylaxis and asthma first aid training. They must update their qualification every 3 years.
3. Staff are recommended to complete **Asthma Australia's online Asthma First Aid training** as a refresher if they are awaiting a face-to-face sessions, have missed a session at their site or have a newly enrolled student with asthma.

Emergency Asthma Response Procedure

Staff follow these steps when a child is experiencing an asthma attack:

Step 1: Sit the child upright, do not leave the child, be calm and reassuring, seek help to locate medication and the asthma action plan or emergency kit.

Step 2: Administer four puffs of **reliever medication** via spacer:

- Shake puffer, 1 puff, 4 breaths x 4.
- Or give 2 doses of Bricanyl (ages 6 and older) or Symbicort (age 12 and older).

Step 3: Wait 4 minutes. If no improvement, repeat Step 2.

Step 4: If symptoms persist, phone 000 (ambulance). Repeat Steps 2 and 3, administering further doses as needed until help arrives.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly (at least every three years) and revise the policy earlier if required by changes in regulations, school needs, or student circumstances.

For additional support:

[SA Health – Asthma Information](#)

[Asthma Australia Asthma First Aid](#)