Ruskin Park Primary School

Asthma Policy

**Rational**

It is important for all teachers and staff to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers and, most importantly, the management of asthma in the school environment. At Ruskin Park Primary School our aim is to manage asthma and asthma suffers as effectively and efficiently as possible.

**Guidelines**

- The Victorian School’s Asthma Policy states that every student with asthma attending the school should have a written “Asthma Management Plan” signed by a doctor.
- The Asthma Management Plan must be completed by a doctor and reviewed each year.
- Students attending camp are required to have an Asthma Management Plan updated and signed by a doctor.
- Staff should be familiar with the Emergency Treatment of an Asthma Attack, DEECD Guidelines.
- Staff should be familiar with the medications, “preventer” and “symptom controller,” triggers and nocturnal symptoms for students with asthma attending camps.

**Implementation**

- Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their Asthma Management Plan. If no plan is available children are to be sat down, 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. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- All students who have asthma are to provide a written “Asthma Management Plan” signed by their doctor.
- All “Asthma Management Plans” are to be revised every 12 months or updated, should the student’s asthma change significantly.
- All staff are to be given a list of those student who have asthma and are to refer to the student’s “Asthma Management Plan” which is held at the office.
- A list of children with asthma and current asthma management plans are to be placed in the First Aid Room and classroom teachers advised.
- A Camp Asthma Management Plan signed by the doctor is to be provided before any camp and an update form to be completed by the doctor should the student’s asthma condition change in the week preceding the camp.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at all times.
- Parents must supply a nebuliser pump where necessary and it will not be used by the school staff unless a student’s Asthma Management Plan recommends the use of such a device.
- All staff are to be briefed each year on the Victorian Schools Asthma Policy for Emergency Treatment of an asthma attack, including medications and triggers.
- A copy of the Victorian School’s Asthma Policy for the Emergency Treatment of an Asthma Attack is to be included in the First Aid Camp Kits and displayed in the First Aid Room.

**Excursions**

- For excursions, the student’s Medication, Action Plan and mobile phone must be taken.
- Teachers to consider the exposure to allergens.
- Teachers must have an emergency plan for the event of an asthmatic reaction. Parents or carers may need to accompany the student as a strategy to support the student.

**Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.

This Policy was ratified by School Council on 17 October 2011

References: www.asthma.org.au