

Asthma Policy

To Be Revised	05/2019
This Version	05/2017
Previous Versions	
Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Allergic Reactions – Anaphylaxis Policy • Administration of Prescribed Medicines Policy • Food and Nutrition Policy • Non Smoking Policy • Nut Aware Policy
Links With	
Related Legislation	
Appendices	

Policy

Helena River Steiner School is committed to providing a safe environment for all students, staff and visitors. The school aims to provide an environment in which young people with asthma can participate in all activities to their full potential.

At Helena River Steiner School, asthma management is viewed as a shared responsibility and staff will respond to the needs of children who have been diagnosed with asthma and those who may have an asthma attack or difficulty breathing at the school who have not previously been diagnosed.

Procedure

To ensure all students at the school are cared for and staff are aware of students who suffer from asthma, the following procedures are followed:

- Students with asthma are identified during the enrolment process and this medical condition is recorded on the school's student information file.
- Parents will be asked to;
 - o Complete an Asthma Emergency Response form and Asthma Care Plan. These forms are to be recorded in the student's file, copied and given to the Class Teacher for the Relief File and for prominent display in the classroom.
 - o Notify the staff, in writing, of any changes to the Asthma Care Plan and Emergency Response Plan, if this occurs, during the year;

- o Consult with the student's Teacher in relation to the health and safety of their child and the supervised management of the student's asthma;
- o Communicate all relevant information and concerns with staff as the need arises e.g. if asthma symptoms were present during the night;
- o Provide an adequate supply of appropriate medication (reliever) and spacer device clearly labeled with the child's name including expiry dates.
- A list of students with asthma and other medical conditions will be displayed in a visible location in the Staff Room in the Kindy House and given to Class Teachers. Relief staff will be informed of the list and location of the asthma care plans;
- Asthma First Aid posters will be displayed in the Staffroom and First Aid Room;
- Provide a mobile Asthma Emergency Kit for use during activities such as excursions and camps;
- Provide staff with Asthma Training;
- Ensure that all regularly prescribed asthma medication is administered in accordance with the student's Asthma Care Plan and Prescribed Medicines Form;
- Identify and where possible, minimise asthma triggers as defined in student's Asthma Care Plan;
- Ensure that parents/carers of a student with asthma have been provided with a copy of this policy;
- Provide families with the contact details of the Asthma Foundation if further asthma advice is needed.

Response To An Asthma Emergency

Administer asthma first aid according to either:

- The student's asthma care plan as signed by the parents/carers and doctor and/or doctors' written instructions.

OR where the plan is not available;

- Commence the standard asthma emergency protocol:
 - o Step 1: Sit the student upright and remain calm and provide reassurance. Do not leave the student alone.
 - o Step 2: Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever, one puff at a time, through a spacer device. Ask the student to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
 - o Step 3: Wait 4 minutes.
 - o Step 4: If there is little or no improvement, repeat steps 2 and 3. If there is still little or no improvement, call an ambulance immediately (Dial 000). Continue to repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.
- Parents/Carers will be notified of any medication used for an emergency asthma attack.

In an emergency the blue reliever puffer can be the student's own, or accessed from the Asthma Emergency Kit. The Asthma Foundation recommends that only staff who are trained in Asthma First Aid should administer blue reliever medication from the Asthma Emergency Kit.

- Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.

Plan Of Action For A Student Who Is Not Known To Have Asthma

In this situation staff will:

- Step 1: Call an ambulance immediately (dial 000) and state that the student is having breathing difficulties
- Step 2: Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever, one puff at a time, through a spacer device. Ask the student to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
- Step 3: Wait 4 minutes.
- Step 4: If there is little or no improvement, repeat steps 2 and 3. Continue to repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.
- Contact parents/carers immediately;
- Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.

NOTE: Single person use of spacers

Each Asthma Emergency Kit should contain at least 2 spacers as these are now designated as single person use due to infection control guidelines. A back-up supply should also be kept. Any spacer used by a student may then be kept at the school and used by that student (appropriately labeled), or sent home with its packaging for the student's own use.

Asthma Emergency Kits are first aid equipment. Ideally students also will have their own, named medication and spacer/mask for use in an emergency. Encouraging families to follow this practice will enhance their health and safety and minimise cost at the school/preschool.