



Broadmeadows Valley Primary School

ASTHMA POLICY

RATIONALE:

Asthma is suffered by up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. Therefore it is important for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in the school environment.

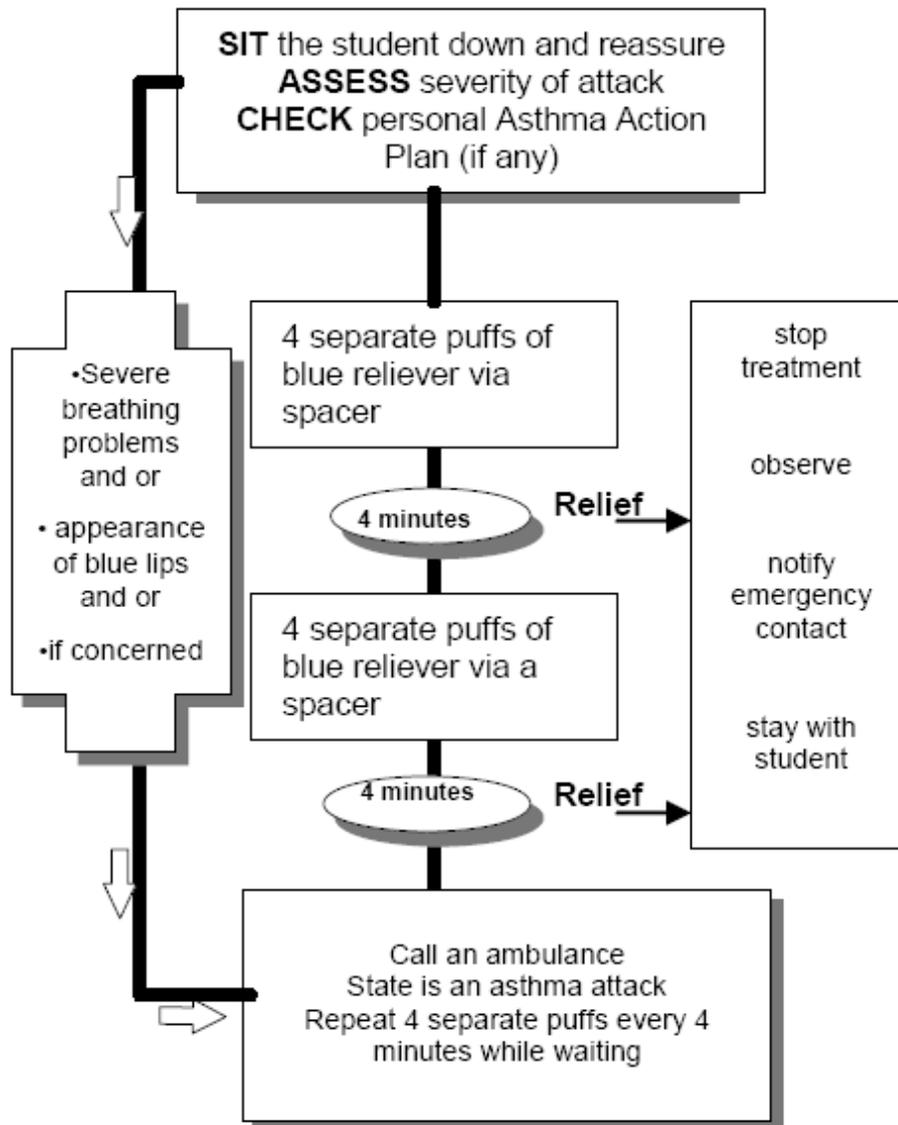
AIMS:

To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school

IMPLEMENTATION:

- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- Children and adults with mild asthma rarely require medication; however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks.
- All students with asthma must have an up to date 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
- Asthma plans will be attached to the student's record for reference and displayed in the school sick bay.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an up to date asthma plan and adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer if used) at school at all times.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained in the administration of reliever puffers. It will also have spacer devices, including disposable spacers in all first-aid kits, including kits on excursions and camps.
- In most cases reliever medications are blue/grey and preventer medications are coloured. This will be reinforced during annual training sessions. A copy of each child's Asthma Management Plan is also included in a box clearly labelled with the child's name and their medication and stored in the sick bay..
- The First Aid Co-ordinator will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates.
- 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 a plan includes and complies with section 4.5.7.3 Schools Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices. The nebuliser must be supplied by the parent.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use in accordance with School Policy and Advisory Guide – Cleaning of Delivery Devices and Asthma Australia – Cleaning a Spacer
http://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/Spacers.aspx#How_do_you_clean_a_spacer?

- Care will be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
- Children suffering asthma attacks will be treated in accordance with their Asthma Plan, using either the child's individual spacer or a disposable spacer provided by the school.
- Students whom suffer from Asthma but do not have an authorised or up to date Asthma Management Plan will be treated in the following manner;



Evaluation:

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's four year review cycle.

Ratification

This school policy was ratified at the Broadmeadows Valley Primary School Council meeting on/...../20.....

School Council President _____ **Principal** _____

