



Our Lady of Mt Carmel School Mullewa

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ASTHMA POLICY

RATIONALE

Our Lady of Mount Carmel owes a duty of care to all students and as such, foreseeable risks from members of the school community suffering asthma attacks need to be minimized. Due to its frequency of occurrence, we also believe it imperative the whole school community is educated and informed on a regular basis in the prevention and maintenance of asthma.

PRINCIPLES

1. Asthma education is provided for all school personnel to ensure they are trained in recognizing the symptoms of asthma and varying forms of treatment they may be required to administer.
2. Potential asthma triggers are to be minimised within the school environment.
3. The school, with the parents, is involved in preparing individual action plans for all asthma sufferers within the school community. These plans are to include detailed information from the sufferers' General Practitioner that outline the immediate course of action to be taken if an asthma attack occurs.

PROCEDURES

1. Information about any student suffering from asthma shall be collected at enrolment and at other times during the course of a student's time at the school e.g. parental consent forms for camps/excursions. Should such information indicate risk of a severe asthma attack, the school shall seek medical advice through the parents/guardians.
2. Parental consent to be gained to disclose individual student health information in accordance with the *Privacy Act (Cth) 1998* as amended.
3. A list of students suffering from asthma, along with its frequency, triggers and treatment involved, is to be given to all teachers at the commencement of the school year, or when a new staff member is employed. This same list is to be displayed in a private place in the staffroom and to be contained in the asthma drawer. A small photograph is to be displayed of any student who has submitted to the school, a detailed action plan recommended by a practitioner. This action plan will also be on view for teachers to become familiar with.
4. Individual classroom teachers to be aware of students under their control suffering from asthma, their frequency, any triggers and the treatment required.
5. Ensure appropriate medications are readily available at all times to those students with asthma. Students should be encouraged to carry or have available appropriate asthma medication and wherever possible should self-administer.

6. Asthma records are kept for each student in a file in a central location (top drawer of the Administration area labelled 'Asthma') along with asthma medications, puffers, spacer and a chart explaining how to use the spacer. Students in the Kindy/Pre-Primary class need to have their medication kept in the classroom.
7. A staff meeting workshop is to be held in first term where the use of medications and procedures for action plans are covered. Ensure all staff are aware of the steps involved in treating an asthma attack. These strategies to be revised during the school year and after any incident involving a student suffering a serious asthma attack.
8. Staff are to be made aware of the resource kit for primary schools "Asthma Can't Stop Me".
9. The School Community Health Nurse (when available) is to be actively involved in raising awareness of asthma throughout the whole school community.
10. An asthma action plan is to be in place for managing asthma during school sporting activities, excursions or camps. Asthma medications, puffer and spacer, along with list of students suffering from asthma to be taken on all school excursions and sporting events held in other venues than the school grounds.

ASTHMA ACTION PLAN (GENERAL)

In the case of a student or staff member suffering from a serious asthma attack;

1. Stay with the child – stay calm so the child does not panic.
2. Call a student to walk to the office quickly.
3. A staff member needs to move out on duty.
4. Locate the 'Students with Asthma' list and medications in the asthma drawer and check treatment required.
5. Administer treatment as required.
6. Responsible member of staff to drive student to hospital.
7. A staff member to phone ahead (to hospital) stating student's name and emergency and treatment already administered.
8. The same staff member to contact parents to advise them that the child has been taken to hospital.

Transportation of a Student to the Mullewa Hospital

A designated route is prepared.

Travel along Doney Street.

Turn right into Dalgety Street.

Turn left into Elder Street. (The hospital is in Elder Street)