

RATIONALE

At Salvado Catholic College the safety and wellbeing of our students is of the highest priority. All children at the College who are known to have asthma are supported via Asthma Friendly policies and procedures and all children, staff and visitors can access Asthma First Aid in an emergency.

POLICY COMMITMENT

We are committed to being an Asthma Friendly service as outlined by Asthma Australia.

This means:

- The majority of staff have current training in Asthma First Aid and routine management, conducted or approved by the local Asthma Foundation. At least one staff member on duty at any time holds a current certificate for ACECQA* approved competency assessed Emergency Asthma Management training. *Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority (acecqa.gov.au)
- Asthma Emergency Kits (AEKs) are accessible to staff and include in-date reliever medication, single person use spacers with masks.
- Asthma First Aid posters are on display and information is available for staff and parents.

DEFINITIONS

Asthma: Asthma is a long term lung condition. People with asthma have sensitive airways in their lungs which react to triggers, causing a 'flare-up'. In a flare-up, the muscles around the airway squeeze tight, the airways swell and become narrow and there is more mucus. This makes it harder to breathe. An asthma flare-up can come on slowly (over hours, days or even weeks) or very quickly (over minutes). A sudden or severe asthma flare-up is sometimes called an asthma attack.

Symptoms: Symptoms of asthma can vary over time and often vary from person to person. The most common asthma symptoms are:

- breathlessness
- wheezing (a whistling noise from the chest)
- tight feeling in the chest
- a persistent cough.

Symptoms often occur at night, early in the morning or during/just after physical activity. If asthma is well controlled, a person should only have occasional asthma symptoms.

Triggers: A trigger is something that sets off or starts asthma symptoms. Everyone with asthma has different triggers. For most people with asthma, triggers are only a problem when asthma is not well controlled with medication.

ORGANISATION

1. Parent/Guardian Roles and Responsibilities:

- Provide an Asthma Care Plan, signed by the treating doctor.
- Provide their child's medication, clearly dated and in the original labelled container. A spacer, and mask as required, should also be supplied.
- Alert staff to any changes in their child's asthma management.

2. Principal's Role and Responsibilities:

- Meet requirements under the National Law and Regulations (*Education and Care Services National Law [WA] Act 2012*).
- Ensure at least one staff member on duty at any time has current competency assessed Emergency Asthma Management Course in Emergency Asthma Management [Regulation 136].
- Provide an appropriate number of first aid kits [Regulations 89 and 168].
- Have a plan and risk-manage children's health care needs [Regulations 90-91].

- Have safe medication management in place [Regulations 92-96, 178 and 181-184].
- Maintain a central record of children’s health care needs, including asthma, and review regularly.
- Induct new staff in asthma policies and procedures including asthma training and information for all staff.
- Review policies and practices with student, parents and staff annually.

3. Staff Roles and Responsibilities:

- Document any asthma attack and advise parents/carers as a matter of priority.
- Have a spacer and mask replacement plan. Record student name and give the spacer/mask used from the AEK to the child who used them for their own future use, otherwise they need to be disposed of thoughtfully.
- Review documentation regularly to ensure compliance with procedures.
- Minimise exposure to known triggers.

4. Student Roles and Responsibilities:

- Are supported to self-manage their asthma in line with their age and stage of development: we explain asthma and asthma care to the children and provide care with, not just to, them.

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

It is the responsibility of the Parent/Guardian to supply appropriate information to the College regarding the child's medical condition (College Form 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8).

Parent/Carers must supply the College with an Asthma Action Plan, which has been devised between the parents/carers and the medical practitioner. The Asthma Action Plan must include **at which stage** professional medical assistance (e.g. ambulance/hospital) must be sought. This is especially important if we are unable to contact a child's parent.

On receipt of the information the College will:

- develop procedures to limit risk
- ensure the child, parent/s and College staff are aware of all emergency procedures.

STORAGE OF MEDICATION

- Known asthmatics must keep a puffer in their tray/bag, or College office medical file cupboard. In the event that a child does not have his/her puffer available and they require the use of an inhaler, staff may use the spare puffer kept in the Front Office.

For further information refer to <https://www.asthmaaustralia.org.au/wa/home> and [Education and Care Services National Regulations \(WA\) 2012](#)

Originally Released	Date of Last Review	Date for Next Review
2017	2019	2021