ASTHMA
LEOPOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL POLICY

Rationale:
- All students have the right to feel safe and well, and know that they will be supported and attended with due care when in need of medication. The students’ wellbeing is dependent on this care.

Aims:
- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

Implementation:
- Professional development will be provided for all staff at least every year on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed appropriately around the school.
- All students with asthma must provide to the school a fully completed Asthma Foundation Victoria’s School Asthma Action Plan annually and when changes occur, developed by their treating practitioner and parents.
- Asthma plans will be provided to classroom teachers, specialists and stored in the first aid room for reference.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer if required) with them at school at all times.
- The school will provide, and have staff trained at least every 3 years in the effective management of asthma including the administering of reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices. At least 2 Asthma First Aid Kits will be located around the school and an additional Kit will be taken on excursions and camps. Clear written instructions on how to use these medications and devices will be included in each first aid kit, along with steps to be taken to treat severe asthma attacks. Asthma First Aid posters will be displayed appropriately around the school.
- The delegated first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates, organising replacements as required and ensuring the Action Plans are current.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.
- 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 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, 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/guardian must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.
- The school will reduce asthma triggers by mowing grass, limiting dust and high allergen plants, maintaining air conditioners etc, ensuring students with Exercise Induced Asthma have a chance to warm up and cool down, to take a prescribed medication before exercise, and to stop activity and take reliever medication if symptoms occur.

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

Signed: __________________________________________
School Council President – Deb Duncan

Signed: __________________________________________
School Council Executive Officer (Principal) – Jan Rollinson

This policy was ratified by School Council on: 17th June, 2014

www.asthma.org.au