



**Mount
Carmel
College**

We nurture.
We challenge.
We care.

ASTHMA POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide a safe environment for students with asthma as far as reasonably practicable. The focus of this Policy is risk minimisation.

DEFINITIONS

Asthma	A chronic inflammatory disease of the airways. Asthma causes the airways to narrow, the lining of the airways to swell and the cells that line the airways to produce more mucus. These changes cause recurrent episodes of wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness and cough, particularly at night or in the early morning.
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POLICY FRAMEWORK

Mount Carmel College is very aware that asthma is a leading cause of absenteeism in school students, which in severe cases can cause them to fall behind in their school work. Asthma symptoms commonly occur overnight, which can mean a lack of sleep for the student, leading to a reduced ability to concentrate in class. Students can also show signs of worsening asthma, especially after vigorous exercise, and may have an asthma attack while at school, which requires an immediate response.

Mount Carmel College takes its duty of care seriously and aims to take all reasonable steps to minimise the risk of an asthma attack occurring within the College. The College is committed to identifying students at risk of asthma, the development of strategies that educate all involved in the College, and the establishment of reasonable measures to prevent asthma attacks. The College is equally committed to the establishment of practical and comprehensive response strategies should an asthma attack occur. Risk reduction strategies proposed in this Policy and its supporting procedure are based on current research and guidelines established by *Asthma Australia* and the *Asthma Foundation of Tasmania*.

POLICY CONTENT

The College is committed to ensuring, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of all workers, students, and other persons who are legally present on College premises.

To support this Policy, the College is committed to:

- The ongoing and continual process of ensuring that the College community is educated, informed, and trained in the management of asthma.
- Raising awareness about the College's Asthma Policy and Procedure.
- Providing, as far as reasonably practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students at risk of an asthma attack can participate equally in all activities.
- Engaging with parents/carers of children diagnosed with asthma in assessing risks and developing risk minimisation strategies for their child.

The College is committed to being an Asthma Friendly School as outlined by Asthma Australia. The College is committed to:

- Meeting all legal, regulatory and policy requirements related to health care planning and asthma management.
- Actively seeking up-to-date information from parents/carers about asthma and other health conditions during the enrolment process and on an ongoing basis.
- Actively seeking a copy of the student's up to date *Asthma Care Plan or Asthma Action Plan* (Action Plan), signed by the treating doctor.
- Maintaining a central record of students' health care needs, including asthma, and reviewing the records regularly.
- Allowing students to access (or carry with them) and administer their reliever medication at all times, unless the child is too young to be responsible for using their medication appropriately.
- Supporting students to self-manage their asthma in line with their age and stage of development.
- Ensuring that the majority of staff have current training in Asthma First Aid and routine management, conducted or approved by the Asthma Foundation of Tasmania.
- Inducting new staff in asthma policies and procedures including asthma training and information for all staff.
- Advising staff of all students diagnosed with asthma.
- Ensuring that Asthma Emergency Kits (AEKs) are available and accessible to staff and include in-date reliever medication, single person use spacers (with masks for under five year olds if required).
- Ensuring that Asthma First Aid posters are on display and information is available for staff and parents.
- Ensuring risk reduction strategies are considered and implemented during off-site activities.
- Reducing the risk of an asthma attack by directing students and the wider College community that aerosols for personal care must not be brought onto College premises or to offsite activities.
- Reducing the risk of an asthma attack by endeavouring to create and maintain gardens and lawns that are 'low allergen' and contain only 'asthma friendly' plants. The College will endeavour to maintain gardens free from wind-pollinated plants.
- Providing post incident support where required.

- Ensuring that all other College policies are Asthma friendly.

Staff members are responsible for:

- Familiarising themselves with and following the College's Asthma Policy and Procedure.
- Attending training and refresher seminars in the management of asthma and first aid for asthma attacks as reasonably required.
- Identifying students with asthma in their care and ensuring that risk reduction strategies are implemented (predominantly applies to teaching staff and teacher assistants).
- Taking a fully stocked Asthma Emergency Kit and First Aid Kit on all off-site excursions, events and camps.
- Providing all external catering staff with a record of students known to have food allergies or have their asthma triggered by food or food additives.
- Ensuring that they don't bring personal care aerosols onto College premises or to off-site activities.
- Requiring students to hand in aerosols to the College office.
- Reporting an asthma attack following the College Injury Reporting procedures and ensuring that parents/carers are informed as a priority.
- Minimising student exposure to known triggers.
- Reviewing documentation regularly to ensure compliance with procedures.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Informing the College if their child has asthma. This notification should occur either at the time of enrolment, or if the student is already enrolled, as soon after diagnosis as possible.
- Providing the College with a copy of their child's completed Action Plan, or similar, signed by the treating doctor.
- Informing the College if the health needs of their child change or if there are any changes in their child's Action Plan.
- Providing sufficient information and medical equipment to College staff to allow them to support the student at school as specified in the student's Action Plan.
- Ensuring that their child has their reliever medication with them each day at school, along with a spacer. The medication must not have expired, should contain adequate doses and be labelled clearly with the child's name. A second reliever may need to be provided to the College for storage depending on the age of the student and the severity of the asthma.
- Replacing reliever medication in a timely manner before it expires or after it has been used.
- Ensuring that their child has an adequate supply of appropriate reliever and other medication when attending excursions and camps.
- Excluding asthma triggers within their control.
- Ensuring that their child does not bring personal care aerosols onto College premises, or to College off-site activities.

- Informing the College if their child has a serious asthma attack outside of school hours, at home or at another location.
- Informing the College of any known learning and support needs, including health care needs, disability or learning or behaviour difficulties which may impact on the management of their asthma.
- Ensuring that their child is able to self-administer their medication when required and educating their child in the management of their asthma and reinforcing relevant aspects of the Action Plan where practicable.

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Asthma Procedure
- Allergy and Anaphylaxis Policy
- Allergy and Anaphylaxis Procedure
- First Aid Policy
- First Aid Procedure

POLICY REVIEW

This Policy shall be reviewed every three years, or in the event of any information or incident that demonstrates the need for a review, or any legislative or organisational change that would warrant a review.

POLICY DATES			
<i>Implemented</i>	25 May 2016 Replacing Allergy Awareness Policy	<i>Reviewed</i>	
<i>Next Review Due</i>	25 MAY 2019		
POLICY AUTHORISATION			
<i>Principal</i>	Susan Ryan	<i>Signature</i>	