

Asthma Management Policy



The Hazard

More than 600,000 Victorians have asthma, of which one in four are children and one in seven are teenagers. It is one of the most common reasons for school absenteeism and hospital admission in school aged children.

Asthma attacks must be identified quickly and treated correctly to ensure the best outcome for students affected. Teachers and staff must be aware of the symptoms, triggers and best practice management of asthma so they can assist their asthmatic students while at the College.

If you think a student may be having a serious asthma attack, call an ambulance and give the student reliever medication in accordance with the student's Asthma Action Plan or the Asthma First Aid Plan.

Legal Obligations

Schedule 4 Clause 12 of the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 requires that the College must ensure that the care, safety and welfare of all students attending the College is in accordance with any applicable State and Commonwealth laws, and that all staff are advised of their obligations under those laws.

Staff have a duty of care to take reasonable steps to protect a student in their care from risks of injury that are reasonably foreseeable. This includes having an emergency management plan that addresses emergency and critical incidents in circumstances that pose a critical risk to the health of a student.

The keys to prevention of an asthma attack is knowledge of the student who has been diagnosed with asthma, awareness of asthma triggers, and prevention of exposure to those triggers. Partnerships between schools and parents/carers are important in helping the student avoid an asthma attack.

Asthma also falls within the definition of disability for the purposes of both the Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic) and the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth). This means that schools must ensure that they do not unlawfully discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against students with asthma.

Lavalla Catholic College's Policy

The College is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all our students and complying with the Department of Education and Training's Asthma Guidelines as amended by the Department from time to time (Guidelines).

It is our policy that:

- Each student diagnosed with asthma must have a written Asthma Action Plan and an Individual Asthma Risk Minimisation Plan
- We provide, as far as practicable, a safe and supportive environment in which students diagnosed with asthma can participate equally in all aspects of the student's schooling
- We adopt the recommendations of the Guidelines where relevant to the College

- Asthma Emergency Kits and other reliever medication are purchased, stored and maintained in accordance with the Guidelines and the College's particular circumstances
- Strategies are in place to communicate with and advise staff, students and parents/carers and to raise awareness about asthma and the College Asthma Management Policy in the College community
- Asthma Supervisors, the Principal and other College staff work together with parents/carers of each student diagnosed with asthma to assess risks and develop risk minimisation strategies for the student
- Staff are appropriately trained and have knowledge about asthma and the College's asthma prevention strategies and policies and procedures in responding to an asthma attack.

Key Reference

This policy has been developed having regard to the Asthma Guidelines for Victorian Schools.