



ALAWA PRIMARY SCHOOL

POLICY

TITLE OF POLICY: Asthma Management Policy

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/2025

LAST REVIEW DATE:

NEXT REVIEW DATE: March 2027

TARGET AUDIENCE: Staff, Parents, Carers and Students

VERSION NUMBER: 1

1. INTRODUCTION

All school 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. In relation to asthma management, the school and its staff have a duty to take reasonable steps to inform themselves as to whether an enrolled student is diagnosed with asthma.

Asthma falls within the definition of disability for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth). This means that schools must ensure that they do not unlawfully discriminate, either directly or indirectly, against students with asthma. Under the Disability Standards for Education 2005, schools have an obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities. It is important to consult with a student's parent on what reasonable adjustments are appropriate for a student with asthma.

2. BUSINESS NEED

To adhere to The Department of Education and Training policy/directive, Alawa Primary School has developed an Asthma Policy. The Asthma Policy rationalises directions and clarifies context, as well as provide the generic expectations and obligations of the school towards students and their asthma health care needs.

3. SCOPE

This policy and its associated guidelines apply to Alawa Primary School. It governs the actions of all departmental staff working with students and their families on matters related to asthma.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Principals will:

- Ensure that the school develops, implements and reviews its school Asthma Management Policy
- Actively seek information to identify students with severe life-threatening asthma or those who have been diagnosed with asthma, either at enrolment or at the time of diagnosis (whichever is earlier)
- Ensure that parents provide an Asthma Action Plan which has been completed by the student's medical practitioner and that contains an up-to-date photograph of the student.
- Ensure that a Communication Plan is developed to provide information to all school staff, students and parents about asthma and the school's Asthma Management Policy
- Ensure that parents provide the school with reliever medication and a spacer device, if reliever is a puffer, for their child that is not out-of-date and replacement reliever medication when requested to do so
- Ensure there are procedures in place for providing volunteers and casual relief staff of students diagnosed with asthma and their role in responding to a student having an asthma attack in their care
- Ensure that relevant school staff have successfully completed approved asthma training in the three years prior
- Encourage ongoing communication between parents and school staff about the current status of the student's asthma, the school's policies and their implementation
- Arrange to purchase and maintain an appropriate number of Asthma Emergency Kits for general use to be part of the school's first aid kit

All school staff will:

- Know and understand the school's Asthma Management Policy
- Understand the causes, symptoms, and treatment of asthma
- Know the school's general first aid and emergency response procedures, and understand their role in relation to responding to a severe or life-threatening asthma attack
- Know where students' reliever medication and the Asthma Emergency Kits for general use are kept
- Plan for special class activities (e.g. cooking, art and science classes), or special occasions (e.g. excursions, incursions, sport days, camp, cultural days, fetes and parties), either at school, or away from school
- Students may also be at risk of an asthma attack when they experience extreme emotions induced at school; e.g. stress during exams

Parents will:

- Inform the school in writing, either at enrolment or diagnosis, of the student's asthma
- Obtain an Asthma Action Plan from the student's medical practitioner that details their condition, and any medications to be administered, and other emergency procedures and provide this to the school
- Parents must provide the school with an Asthma Action Plan completed by the student's medical practitioner. The plan must outline the student's known triggers and the emergency procedures to be taken in the event of an asthma flare-up or attack. The Asthma Action Plan should be reviewed and completed at least annually, or after a flare-up, when symptoms or treatment changes, for each student with asthma and contain:
 - The prescribed medication taken and when it is to be administered (e.g. on a regular basis; as premedication to exercise; if the student is experiencing symptoms)
 - Emergency contact details
 - Contact details of the student's medical/health practitioner
 - Details about deteriorating asthma including: signs to recognise worsening symptoms; what to do during an attack and medication to be used.
- Inform school staff in writing of any changes to the student's medical condition and if necessary, provide an updated Asthma Action Plan
- Provide the school with an up to date photo for the student's Asthma Action Plan and when the plan is reviewed
- Provide the school with reliever medication and spacer device, where the medication is administered by a puffer, that are current and not expired.
- Replace the student's reliever medication as needed, before their expiry date or when used
- Assist school staff in planning and preparation for the student prior to camps, field trips, incursions, excursions or special events (e.g. class parties, cultural days, fetes or sport days)
- Inform school staff in writing of any changes to the student's emergency contact details

5. ATTACHMENTS (DET Internal)

6. RELATED POLICY, LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS (DET Internal)

Legislation

- [Education Act 2015 \(NT\)](#)
- [Disability Standards for Education 2005 \(Cwlth\)](#)
- [Anti-Discrimination Act 1992 \(NT\)](#)
- [Education and Care Services \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act 2011 \(NT\)](#)
- [Information Act 2002 \(NT\)](#)
- [NT Work Health and Safety \(National Uniform Legislation\) Act 2011 \(NT\)](#)

Policy/Guidelines

- [Asbestos in Schools](#)
- [Drugs in Schools](#)
- [Excursions](#)
- [Physical Activity Requirements for Schools](#)
- [Safety in School Sport](#)
- [School Nutrition and Healthy Eating](#)

[School Swimming, Water Safety Programs and Aquatic Activities](#)