**Definition:**
Asthma is a disease of the airways. Asthma symptoms are caused by the muscles in the airways tightening and the lining of the airways swelling and producing sticky mucus. This causes the airways to narrow and for less air to flow in and out of the lungs.

Symptoms commonly include:
- Shortness of breath.
- Wheezing.
- Tightness in chest
- A dry, persistent, irritating cough

Triggers of asthma include:
- Exercise
- Cold/flu
- Smoke
- Weather changes
- Dust
- Mould
- Foods/additives
- Medications
- Emotions

**Implementation**
1. The role of **students** is to:
   1.1. alert a teacher or staff member immediately they begin to experience any signs of asthma.

2. The role of **parents/carers** of students who suffer from asthma is to:
   2.1 notify on enrolment if a student suffers from asthma and provide accurate, current and detailed information re the student’s asthma symptoms and triggers.
   2.2 provide WPS with a completed Victorian School Asthma Action Plan.
   2.3 notify WPS of any changes relevant to the student’s asthma management.
   2.4 keep the Victorian School Asthma Action Plan updated yearly or as requested.
   2.5 provide any necessary asthma medication needing to be administered at school in accordance with Medicines Management Policy.
   2.6 complete School Camp Asthma Action Plan and Excursion Medical Update Form prior to student attending camp or going on excursions.

3. The role of **staff** is to:
   3.1 be aware of students in their class/level who suffer from asthma.
   3.2 be aware of Asthma Management Policy and its content.
4. The role of the **nominated first aid staff member** is to:
   4.1 inform staff of Asthma Management Policy and its content.
   4.2 inform parents/carers of Asthma Management Policy and provide annually with request for update of student’s Victorian School Asthma Action Plan.
   4.3 provide staff with all relevant asthma information for students in their care.
   4.4 ensure asthma medication kept at school is managed as per Medicines Management Policy.
   4.5 organise asthma training in accordance with DEECD guidelines.
   4.6 manage and maintain asthma first aid kits.
   4.7 ensure privacy of student medical documentation.

5. All Yard duty folders are equipped with a document outlining the Procedure to be taken should a child suffer an asthma attack whilst in the school yard

Resources:
- The Asthma Foundation of Victoria

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in.... **May 2014**