Rationale
- Asthma affects up to one in four primary aged children, one in seven teenagers and one in ten adults. It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

Aims:
- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school and while in the care of the school.

Actions:
- Professional development will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed on the staffroom wall.

- All students with asthma must have an up to date written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria’s requirements completed by their doctor or paediatrician. Appropriate asthma plan pro formas are available at www.asthma.org.au

- Asthma plans will be kept in the up to date asthma register in the office.

- All students with asthma plans will be identified by a current photo of the student.

- Students with asthma will be identified during the enrolment process.

- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring their children have an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including a spacer) with them at school at all times.

- Open communication between parents/guardians and staff will be encouraged regarding the child’s asthma status.

- The school will provide, and have staff trained annually in the administering of, reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Airomir, Asmol or Bricanyl and spacer devices in all first-aid kits, including kits 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. Kits will contain 70% alcohol swabs to clean devices after use.

- The first aid staff member will be responsible for checking reliever puffer expiry dates and the purchase of medication and spacer devices.
A nebuliser pump will not be used by the school staff unless a student’s asthma management plan recommends the use of such a device, and only then if the plan includes and complies with section 4.5.7.3 of the SOTF Reference Guide – Asthma Medication Delivery Devices.

All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication will be cleaned appropriately after each use.

Care must be provided by a staff member immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack and monitored for the duration of the attack.

Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan.

Parents will be notified of an asthma attack either by phone, verbal or via our first aid written notice.

If no plan is available and/or a student is having difficulty breathing whether or not the student is known to have asthma, the asthma action plan must be followed. Students are to be sat upright, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths per puff, 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. In the absence of a parent, a staff member will accompany the student in the ambulance if required. Parents will be contacted as soon as practical.

Evaluation:
- Maintain Westgarth Primary School as a member of the Asthma Friendly School Program.
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle.

Supporting Documents:
- Asthma Friendly School Document
- www.asthma.org.au