Rationale:

- Hampton Primary School is an Asthma friendly school and follows the Victorian School Asthma Policy.
- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezy breathing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking.
- Children and adults with asthma require medication; however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- Asthma is a chronic health condition that affects many primary school children, teenagers and 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.
- The school recognises the importance of involvement and engagement with parents and carers of students and the ability of students to self-manage their asthma where appropriate.

Aims:

- To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school and to ensure students feel safe and supported at school and to support their health care needs.
- To provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all school activities to their full potential.

Implementation:

- The school will provide an annually updated list of students with asthma management plans on record to all staff and specialists and Casual Relief Teachers (CRT’s).
- Professional learning (through the Asthma Foundation and the school nurses) will be provided annually for all staff on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. This will ensure the school staff are aware of their obligations and the best practice management of asthma in the school setting. Asthma First Aid management will be displayed on the walls of the staffroom and the First Aid room.
- The School Nurse will ensure that all students with asthma have an up to date (annual) written asthma management plan consistent with Asthma Victoria’s requirements completed by their doctor, paediatrician or parent. A proforma is available at www.asthma.org.au. These plans will be available in the first aid room in an asthma folder. The child’s records will also state their asthma status.
- 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.
- The nurse will be responsible for regularly checking all school based puffers (student’s, first aid kits and Asthma emergency kits) are within expiry dates.
- 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. In this instance, the Department of Education Schools Reference Guide – Asthma - 4.5.10.3.2 – Strategies for Schools will be followed. The Asthma Foundation of Victoria can be contacted for information and support as required to use the nebuliser device according to manufacturer’s guidelines.
- All devices used for the delivery of asthma medication are to be the child’s own or disposable.
- Care must be provided immediately for any student who develops signs of an asthma attack.
Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan by the School Nurse or a level 2 trained staff member.

If no plan is available children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer. They will be instructed to inhale 4 deep breaths per puff. After waiting 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs will be administrated and the cycle repeated. 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. Parents must be contacted whenever a child either suffers an asthma attack for the first time or the attack is significant, requiring more than a full dose treatment of a reliever puffer (4 puffs).

Evaluation:
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three-year review cycle or in accordance with updated DEECD regulations.

References:
- Asthma Victoria – [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au)

Links:
- [www.asthma.org.au](http://www.asthma.org.au).
- [www.asthmfriendlyschools.org.au](http://www.asthmfriendlyschools.org.au)