**Rationale:**
Asthma is a potentially fatal, disorder affecting the airways of the lungs. (People with asthma have very sensitive airways that narrow in response to certain "triggers", leading to difficulty in breathing. The airway narrowing is caused by inflammation and swelling of the airway lining, the tightening of the airway muscles and the production of excess mucus. This results in a reduced airflow in and out of the lungs.)

**Aim:**
To provide as far as practicable, a safe supportive environment in which students at risk of asthma can participate in all aspects of their schooling in a quality manner.

**Implementation:**

The school will manage asthma in the following manner:

- Provide a forum for all staff to be trained in how to recognise, respond to and manage asthma attack/symptoms, including administering reliever medication.
- Ensure staff understands the prevention/causes, symptoms and treatments of asthma.
- Facilitate regular reviews of prevention and management strategies.
- Actively seek information to identify students with asthma at the time of enrolment.
- Ensure all identified students have a current Asthma Management Plan developed in consultation with parents/carers and medical practitioners. (These should be updated annually). Asthma plan proformas are available at www.asthma.org.au.
- Attach Asthma plans to student records, a copy to be held in the staff room, office and all teachers notified.
- Provide immediate care to any student who develops asthma symptoms in accordance with their individual asthma plan. If there is no current Asthma Management Plan available the student will be cared for following the *Victorian Schools Asthma Policy for Emergency Treatment of an Asthma Attack*.
- Ensure parents / guardians of all asthmatic students attending school camps complete a *School Camp Asthma Management Plan*.
- Raise awareness of asthma within the school community (staff, students & parents).
- Ensure all staff know and follow the school’s first aid procedures when responding to an asthma attack.
- Ensure measures are taken to ensure a safe and supportive environment for at risk students during offsite - school based activities.
- Provide spare asthma puffers and spacers in an accessible place in the staff room and mobile first aid kits for use on camps & excursions.
- Encourage parents to provide current reliever medication (i.e. Ventolin, Asmol, Bricanyl) and a spacer when required.
- All students with severe asthma to carry their reliever puffers with them at all times.
Note: Nebuliser pumps are no longer used in schools unless a student’s asthma plan recommends the use of such a device. Using Disposable Asthma Spacers which are for single person use is now mandatory in all Governments schools.

**Evaluation:**
- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s review cycle or at any time DEECED policy or directives are modified or changed.

**Evaluation:**
First Implemented Wednesday, 17 October 2012

This policy will be reviewed in Term 4, 2014