



CAULFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

STUDENT HEALTH POLICY

POLICY NO. 1.5

Rationale:

An increasing number of students have medical conditions or healthcare needs that may impact on their attendance and participation at school. These students may require emergency first aid assistance, supervision for safety, routine health and personal care support, and occasionally complex procedures. The health and safety of students is relevant and important to schools as students' performance at school can be seriously impeded by poor health. Optimising student health care at school as well as at home aims to improve attendance, enhance participation in school programmes, and ultimately improve learning outcomes.

Policy statement:

Staff, parents, health professionals and students all have a role to play in the effective support of students' health needs.

The school supports the health needs of students at school by:

- Providing first aid (including emergency care)
- Providing temporary care when students become unwell at school
- Administering medications and providing health care to students with specific medical requirements
- Managing confidential student health records
- Developing individual student health support plans in conjunction with parents and guardians where necessary

Parents and guardians are expected to support both chronic and acute health needs of their children at school by:

- Informing the school of the health needs of students at enrolment or when medical conditions develop or change
- Providing the school with written advice regarding medication or emergency protocols as necessary
- Liaising with the school and health professionals about the implications of any medical condition for a child's schooling
- Not sending children to school when they are sick
- Observing health department exclusion criteria when students have infectious diseases
- Ensuring that the emergency contacts provided to the school are able to pick up their children in the event of a student becoming ill at school.

This policy is designed to provide a summary and consolidation of policy on student health at Caulfield Primary School. It is to be read in conjunction with Victorian DET student health policies.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/studenthealth.aspx>

The Departmental website provides extensive procedural information to support the guidelines outlined in this policy.

First Aid:

Schools are responsible for providing first aid at a local level and are required to implement department policy and procedures regarding first aid in schools. First aid at Caulfield Primary School is covered by the CPS First Aid Policy (No. 1.18).

Medical emergencies:

First aid training and a duty of care requires staff to seek emergency medical assistance in circumstances where their training is insufficient to deal with a situation. Delays in medical emergencies can compromise student health and safety. Staff members do not have to wait for parent or guardian approval to take emergency action in such cases. This is outlined to families, and consent obtained, in enrolment documentation. Staff will, however, notify a student's emergency contact as soon as possible to inform them of any medical emergency.

School staff are expected to:

- be familiar with school emergency procedures, including those relating specifically to anaphylaxis, and to excursions/camps.
- immediately contact emergency medical services (dial 000) in emergency situations. Schools can also contact NURSE-ON-CALL (dial 1300 60 60 24) in an emergency if appropriate.

Medication:

Refer to distribution of medication policy

Student health plans:

In cases of students who suffer anaphylactic reactions or have other medical conditions requiring specific ongoing medical support, the school requires parents or guardians to provide a health support plan written by a relevant health professional. Such a plan should:

- Provide information about the relevant medical condition
- Document routine health and personal care supports required
- Specify medication requirements and emergency procedures

All information regarding anaphylaxis management is contained in the Caulfield Primary School Anaphylaxis Management Policy (policy no 1.1).

All information regarding allergies (mild/moderate) management is contained in the Caulfield Primary School Allergies (mild/moderate) Management Policy (policy no 1.15).

All information regarding epilepsy management is contained in the Caulfield Primary School Epilepsy Management Policy (policy no 1.16).

Asthma

Students who have a documented asthma diagnosis must provide the school with an *Asthma Action Plan*. Caulfield Primary School is a member of The Asthma Foundation Victoria, and is recognised by the Foundation as an Asthma Friendly School. In meeting this program's essential criteria, the school is implementing current and best practice asthma management strategies.

Specific medical conditions (other)

A student health support plan must also be completed for each student with an identified health care need (other than as specified above) requiring staff to undertake individualised care. This care may be in the form of regular or complex medical support; ongoing personal care support; or specialised training due to a high risk of medical emergency. This may include but is not limited to conditions such as diabetes, haemophilia or cystic fibrosis.

Managing confidential health records:

- The Health Records Act 2001 (Vic) deals with personal information relating to health in both the private and public sectors. Government and non-government schools are obliged to abide by the Act, which protects all identifying information about the health and disability of staff and students, their medical condition and treatment.
- Student health information may include information gathered as part of the enrolment process, immunisation data, medication information, and student health support plans.
- A student's confidential medical information may sometimes need to be shared with a third party. Under normal circumstances the school must seek consent from parents or guardians to release or disclose health information. The school can disclose personal and health care information without consent when it is necessary to reduce a serious and imminent threat to their child or other members of the school community; or when required by law.

Date of approval: 2017	Date of review: 2020
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