Asthma Management Policy

RATIONALE

Asthma is an increasingly common medical complaint among Primary school children in Australia today. At St Thomas Aquinas we believe that children with Asthma can achieve as much success both academically and socially as their peers. We believe that by encouraging students to lead a normal, active childhood and with the support of preventative medication (relievers when necessary), children with asthma will enjoy their years in Primary school and enter their Secondary schooling as confident and well balanced adolescents.

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 mild asthma rarely require medication, however severe asthma sufferers may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).

AIMS

This policy will ensure:

- That all staff, parents and students will have accurate and up-to-date information regarding the care and management of students with asthma;
- That all teachers will respond competently and appropriately to the needs of students with asthma;
- That children requiring asthma medication will have ready access to it;
- That parents will have confidence in the school’s asthma management policy and fully cooperate with the requirements listed.

IMPLEMENTATION

The principal is responsible for overseeing the implementation of this policy with the support of the staff and parents.

- Procedures to be followed are outlined in the guidelines provided by Asthma Australia (see appendix)
• Parents will provide the necessary information regarding their children’s asthma needs and regularly update the information. Parents will supply all the necessary medications needed by their child.

• Children’s asthma medication will be stored in the school office and clearly labeled with the child’s name.

• Depending upon the age and maturity of the child, the child may carry his/her own asthma medication and administer it as required.

• An asthma kit which includes Spacers and and Nebuliser pump is kept in the First Aid room. A Spacer is included in portable First Aid kits taken on excursions and camps.

• Children suffering from asthma will be encouraged to participate in regular school sport activities unless directed by their doctor.

• The Secretary will maintain an ASTHMA Folder recording all children who have asthma and their medication and treatment.

Support Personnel

• Support is available from Asthma Australia in the form of staff inservicing and through their Asthma Prevention Program

EVALUATION

There will be ongoing monitoring of this policy with evaluation taking place annually by the School Leadership Team.

Asthma First Aid

Procedure if someone has an asthma attack.
In a case where someone is having an asthma attack, the staff should immediately:

Administer Asthma First Aid according to either:
The provided Asthma Action Plan as signed by the parent and doctor and/or doctor’s written instructions

OR
Follow the Asthma First Aid Plan below

AND if a first attack – Call an ambulance (Dial 000).

Record any asthma incident in the sickness book.

Date of Policy 2011 To be reviewed 2013