ASTHMA

Rationale:
Asthma is a chronic health condition affecting approximately 15% of children. It is one of the most common reasons for childhood admission to hospital. While an average of two people die in Victoria each week from asthma, many of these deaths are thought to be preventable. Community education and correct asthma management will assist to minimise the impact of asthma.

It is generally accepted that children under the age of six do not have the skills and ability to recognise and manage their own asthma effectively. With this in mind, Moriac Primary School recognises the need to educate its staff and parents/carers about asthma and to promote responsible asthma management strategies.

Aims:
- Raise the awareness of asthma amongst those involved with the Children’s Service
- Provide the necessary strategies to ensure the health and safety of all persons with asthma involved with the Children’s Service
- Provide an environment in which children with asthma can participate in all activities to the full extent of their capabilities
- Provide a clear set of guidelines and expectations to be followed with regard to the management of asthma.
- Asthma management should be viewed as a shared responsibility.

Implementation:
- Ensure that all staff members have completed appropriate training every three years.
- Identify children with asthma during the enrolment process.
- Provide an Asthma Action Plan to all parents of children with asthma upon enrolment. The completed Asthma Action Plan is to be returned within 7 days.
- Store Asthma Action Plans in the child’s enrolment record.
- Ensure that all staff are informed of the children with asthma.
- Formalise and document the internal procedures for emergency Asthma First Aid.
- Ensure that an emergency Asthma First Aid poster is displayed in key locations.
- Ensure that the First Aid Kit contains a blue reliever puffer (e.g. Airomir, Asmol, Epaq or Ventolin), a spacer device, concise written instructions on Asthma First Aid procedures and 70% alcohol swabs.
- Ensure that an accredited staff member correctly maintains the asthma component of the First Aid Kit.
- Provide a mobile Asthma First Aid Kit for use at activities outside school.
- Where appropriate, organise information sessions on asthma for parents/guardians.
- Encourage open communication between parents/guardians and staff regarding the status and impact of a child’s asthma.

Parents/guardians will:
- Inform staff, either upon enrolment or on initial diagnosis, that their child has a history of asthma.
- Provide all relevant information regarding the child’s asthma via the Asthma Action Plan.
- Notify the staff, in writing, of any changes to the Asthma Action Plan during the year.
- Ensure that their child has an adequate supply of appropriate asthma medication (including reliever) at all times.
- Ensure that their child has their own spacer device.
- Ensure that they comply with all requirements and procedures in relation to the Medications Book.
o Communicate all relevant information and concerns to staff as the need arises e.g. if asthma symptoms were present last night.

o Ensure, in consultation with the staff, the health and safety of their child through supervised management of the child’s asthma.

**Review Date:**
This policy has a four year life and will be reviewed by Moriac Primary School Council in 2019