

Health Care Needs Policy

Rationale

The school has a responsibility to ensure all students feel safe and supported and to provide equitable access to education and respond to diverse student needs, including health care needs.

The Health Care Needs Policy will:

- Support student engagement in learning and wellbeing
- Provide equitable access to education
- Support and respond to the identified health care needs of individual students
- Enrolment or when a health care need is identified, develop and maintain clear plans and processes to support the student's health.

1. Guidelines

- 1.1 Students with identified health care needs including complex medical needs will have a Student Health Support Plan or other specific health management plans (such as Anaphylaxis Management Plan)
- 1.2 Identified school staff will have appropriate advice and/or training to meet specific student health needs not covered under basic first aid training
- 1.3 Designated school staff must have specific training to allow them to meet the needs of an individual student with **complex medical care needs**
- 1.4 Where a student has recently contracted an illness, is infectious and/or needs rest and recuperation his or her care should generally be the responsibility of parents/carers.

2. Implementation

- 2.1 The school will allocate time to discuss, practise and review health support based on the Student Health Support Plan. This will include maintaining clear plans and processes to support the identified health care needs of a student. This will include as appropriate:
 - a) Interim support care plan until such time as all aspects of support have been arranged
 - b) Short or long term first aid planning
 - c) Supervision for safety
 - d) Routine health and personal care support
 - e) Specific personal care support needs (e.g. continence care, eating and drinking etc)
 - f) Occasional complex medical care support
 - g) Emergency care needs
 - h) Anticipating, planning and managing health support
- 2.2 The school will store information on CASES21 about the student's health condition and medication to be stored and supervised at school.
- 2.3 The Student Health Support Plan should:
 - a) Be based upon medical advice from the student's medical/health practitioner and be developed in consultation with the student's parents/guardians

- b) Describe specific training requirements
 - c) Include procedures that make use of local medical services such as ambulances, local doctors, health centres, hospitals and community nurses when practical
 - d) Outline specialised medical procedures
- Note: Procedures normally requiring the involvement of a registered nurse may not be able to be undertaken by school staff

2.4 Assistance available to support students needing complex medical care will be sought when appropriate from:

- a) Program for Students with Disabilities
- b) Student Support Service Officers including Visiting Teacher Service (physical disabilities/impairments, hearing impairment, vision impairment)
- c) 'Schoolcare' program provided by the Royal Children's Hospital
- d) Condition specific organisations (e.g. Epilepsy Foundation, Asthma Foundation, Victorian Continence Resource Centre)

2.5 **Staff Training:**

- a) An appropriate number of school staff will have Level 2 First Aid training
- b) All staff will have anaphylaxis and asthma training according to the school's Anaphylaxis and Asthma policies
- c) Designated staff will have specific training according to the identified needs of individual students
- d) Medication will be managed according to the school's Medication Policy.

2.6 **Monitoring and Review:**

Plans should be reviewed when:

- a) Updated information is received from the student's medical or health practitioner
- b) The school or parents/carers (or student when appropriate) have concerns in the support
- c) If there is a change in support
- d) At least annually

2.7 **Communication:**

The school will communicate openly with parents/carers and when appropriate with individual students about:

- a) Successes achieved
- b) Development and changes
- c) Health and education concerns

3. **Resources**

- 3.1 This policy is underpinned by the:
- a) Anaphylaxis Management Policy
 - b) Asthma Management Policy
 - c) First Aid Policy
 - d) Medication Management Policy
 - e) Student Welfare Policy

4. **Evaluation**

- 4.1 The Education Sub Committee and Weeden Heights PS staff will review the effectiveness of the school's Health Care Needs Policy on a cyclical basis in accordance with DET guidelines and priorities.