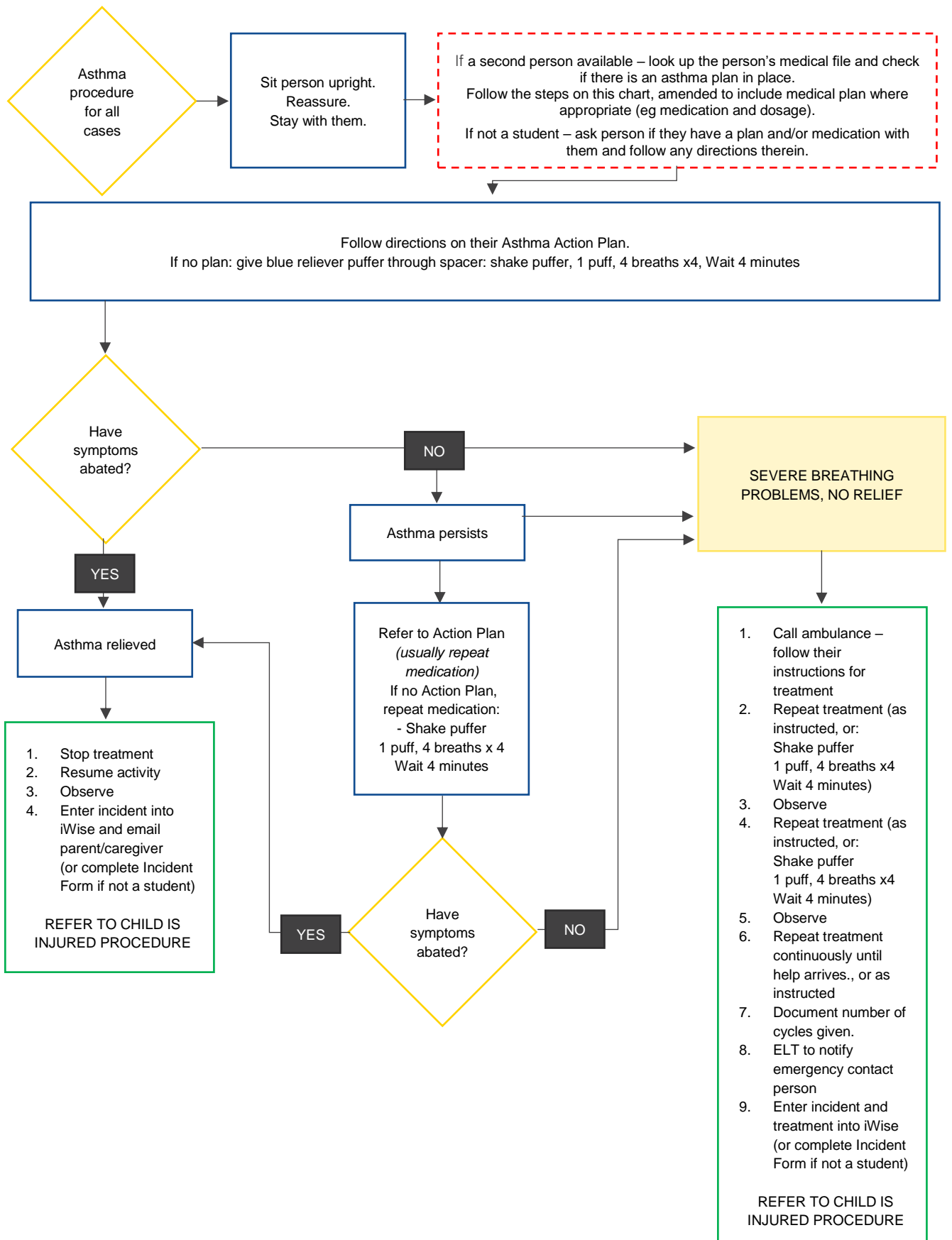




**St Peter's
Woodlands**

Asthma Procedure





1. General Action Plan in the Event of an Asthma attack

This table describes how to treat a student suffering an asthma attack, having difficulty breathing for an unknown cause, even if they are not a known asthma sufferer.

Note: For a student who is not a known asthma sufferer, this treatment:

- could be life saving if the asthma has not previously been recognised
- would not be harmful if the cause of breathlessness was not asthma.

Warning: Immediately call an ambulance (**Dial 000**) and state a person is having an asthma attack (or breathing difficulties) if:

- the student is having difficulties breathing, and not known to have asthma
- the student is having a severe attack; or
- you are concerned
- at any time the student's condition suddenly worsens

Delay in treatment may increase severity of the attack and ultimately risk the student's life.

STEP	ACTION
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sit the person upright: • be calm and reassuring • do not leave them alone • seek assistance from another teacher (or reliable student) to locate the student's action plan and first aid kit if required. <p>Note: <i>Breathing is easier sitting rather than lying down</i></p>
2	<p>Give medication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shake the blue reliever puffer • use a spacer if you have one • give 4 separate puffs into the spacer, shaking the puffer between each puff • ensure student takes 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff. <p>Important: If a spacer is not available use the puffer on its own. If the student's own blue reliever puffer is not readily available immediately get one from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the asthma emergency first aid kit • another student or staff member (only as a last resort and if the reliever medication is not prescribed) . <p>All blue reliever puffers are safe, when used as directed. The student may experience harmless side effects such as shakiness, headache, a tremor or a 'racing' heart.</p>
3	<p>Wait 4 minutes. If there is no improvement, repeat step 2.</p>
4	<p>If there is still no improvement call an ambulance (000).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell the operator the person is having an asthma attack • Keep giving 4 puffs, getting the student to take 4 breaths per puff, every 4 minutes while you wait for emergency assistance. • ELT member notified.
5	<p>If asthma is relieved after administering the 4x4x4 procedure stop the treatment and observe the student. Member of the ELT to notify the student's emergency contact person and record the incident.</p>



USE OF AN INHALER	
WITH A SPACER	WITHOUT A SPACER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assemble spacer Remove puffer cap and shake well Insert puffer upright into spacer Place mouthpiece between teeth and seal lips around it Press once firmly on puffer to fire one puff into spacer Take 4 breaths in and out of spacer Slip spacer out of mouth Repeat 1 puff at a time until 4 puffs taken – remember to shake the puffer before each puff Replace cap 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove cap and shake well Breathe out away from puffer Place mouthpiece between teeth and seal lips around it Press once firmly on puffer while breathing in slowly and deeply Slip puffer out of mouth Hold breath for 4 seconds or as long as comfortable Breathe out slowly away from puffer Repeat 1 puff at a time until 4 puffs taken – remember to shake the puffer before each puff Replace cap

2. Medication

Most students can control their asthma by taking medication. Asthma medication is normally:

- taken via a metered-dose inhaler (puffer) preferably in conjunction with a spacer device or via a breathe-activated dry powder inhaler
- provided by the parents or the student, and may be self-administered
- self-managed by the student at secondary level.

This table describes the common forms of asthma medication.

PURPOSE	MEDICATION THAT
Reliever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides relief from symptoms within minutes used in an asthma emergency should be easily accessible to students at all times is preferably carried by the student is normally blue or grey in colour includes common brands such as Ventolin, Bricanyl, Airomir and Asmol. <p>Note: some relievers can be purchased from a pharmacy without a prescription - schools must have a letter of authorisation from the principal.</p>
Preventer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is used on a regular basis to prevent asthma symptoms is usually brown, orange, rust or yellow in colour is prescribed by a doctor.
Symptom controller	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> is always used in conjunction with preventer medication is a long-acting reliever usually green in colour is prescribed by a doctor.



Combination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • combines a preventer with a symptom controller in the same device • there are two types of combination medications, Seretide and Symbicort • for students aged 12 or over, Symbicort may be used in an asthma emergency if documented on the student's asthma action plan (a maximum of 6 inhalations while waiting for an ambulance) • usually white, red or purple in colour • is prescribed by a doctor. <p>Important: Teachers should refer to the student's asthma action plan to determine how to use this medication in an asthma emergency.</p>
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3. Further Information

Further information regarding this policy is available from any member of the Executive Leadership Team.

If any of the documents below are altered, corresponding alterations may need to be made in other documents.

Related Policies

PRIN-04	Child Protection
PRIN-07	Critical Incident
PRIN-10	Emergency
CURR-25	Outdoor Education
WHS-34	Skin Protection

Related Procedures & Standard Operating Procedures

WHS-13-01	First Aid – Child is injured
WHS-13-02	First Aid – Child is sick
WHS-13-03	First Aid – Child requires medical attention (offsite)
WHS-13-04	Off-Campus First Aid Overview
WHS-13-05	Infectious Diseases
WHS-13-06	Categories and Processes for Administering Medication and First Aid
WHS-13-07	Anaphylaxis
WHS-13-08	Asthma
WHS-13-09	Food Handling and Storage
WHS-13-11	Administration of Student Medical Plans

Related Forms and Checklists

FORM	Accident & Injury Report Form
FORM	Incident Form
FORM	Diary Note (Maze – First Aid Room Attendance)
FORM	Excursion Risk
FORM	Medical/First Aid Plan – Ongoing Condition
FORM	Medical/First Aid Plan – Temporary Condition



FORM Medication Authority

Related Safe Work Practices & Guidance Notes

None

Related Other Documentation

MANUAL	Child Protection Manual
MANUAL	Staff Procedure Manual
INDUCTION	Contractors
INDUCTION	Staff
INDUCTION	Relief Staff
INFORMATION	Student Teacher
INFORMATION	Work Experience Student
FOLDERS	TRTs
FOLDERS	Class/Subject