

Health Care Needs Policy



Responsibility	Assistant Principal (Health and Wellbeing), Health and Wellbeing Leading Teacher, First Aid Officer/s
Endorsed by Council	June 2022
Due for Review	June 2024

Purpose	To ensure that Berwick Fields Primary School provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.
Objective	To explain to Berwick Fields Primary School parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.
Scope	<p>This policy applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers • all students who have been diagnosed with a health care need that may require support, monitoring or medication at school.
Implementation	<p>This policy should be read with Berwick Fields Primary School's <i>First Aid, Administration of Medication, Anaphylaxis, and Asthma</i> policies.</p> <p>Student health support planning</p> <p>In order to provide appropriate support to students at Berwick Fields Primary School who may need medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan (http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/supportplanning.aspx) will be prepared by the school's First Aid officer/s in collaboration with a member of the Health and Wellbeing team, the student (where appropriate), their parents, carers and treating medical practitioners.</p> <p>Student Health Support plans help our school to assist students with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • routine health care support needs, such as supervision or provision of medication • personal care support needs, such as assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers and positioning, and use of health-related equipment • emergency care needs, such as predictable emergency first aid associated with asthma, seizure or diabetes management. <p>Students with complex medical care needs, for example, tracheostomy care, seizure management or tube feeding, must have a Student Health Support Plan which provides for appropriate staff to undertake specific training to meet the student's particular needs.</p> <p>At enrolment or when a health care need is identified, parents/carers should provide accurate information about the student's condition or health care needs, ideally documented by the student's treating medical/health care practitioner on a Medical Advice Form (or relevant equivalent)</p> <p>Berwick Fields Primary School may invite parents and carers to attend a Student Support Group meeting to discuss the contents of a student's Health Support Plan and assistance that the student may need at school or during school activities.</p>

	<p>Where necessary, Berwick Fields Primary School may also request consent from parents and carers to consult with a student's medical practitioners, to assist in preparing the plan and ensure that appropriate school staff understand the student's needs. <i>Consultation with the student's medical practitioner will not occur without parent/carer consent unless required or authorised by law.</i></p> <p>Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when updated information is received from the student's medical practitioner • when the school, student or parents and carers have concerns with the support being provided to the student • if there are changes to the support being provided to the student, or • on an annual basis. <p>Management of confidential medical information</p> <p>Confidential medical information provided to Berwick Fields Primary School to support a student will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recorded on the student's file • shared with all relevant staff so that they are able to properly support students diagnosed with medical conditions and respond appropriately if necessary.
Communication	<p>This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard copy available from school administration upon request • Included in staff handbook/manual • Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required • Shared periodically through staff and community newsletters • Included in staff induction processes
Further Information and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Policy and Advisory Guide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health Care Needs ○ Health Support Planning Forms ○ Complex Medical Needs <p>Related school policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergy Aware Anaphylaxis Policy • Asthma Policy • First Aid and Medication Policy
Review Cycle	<p>This policy was last updated in June 2022 and is scheduled for review in June 2024.</p>