

Students with Critical and Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

Introduction

Guided by our School Covenant, St Catherine's School strives to be a Supportive School Community with a collective responsibility to develop and nurture the unique qualities and abilities of the individual. A supportive school community emerges from the interaction of a shared set of beliefs, attitudes and actions. Our school values Collective Student Diversity and is committed to Shared Responsibility.

St Catherine's School Student Diversity Policy states that student diversity develops through a range of physical, intellectual, social and emotional factors affecting the child and their family including physical disability and medical illness.

School Context

Students with Critical and Life-Threatening Medical Conditions participate in the full range of experiences offered at St Catherine's School. The School has approximately 504 students. Students in Prep – Year 6 are supervised by a rotating roster of Class Teachers, Support Teachers, Supply Teachers, the Principal, Assistant Principals and School Officers. Supervision of students occurs across a variety of settings: Within the school grounds (classroom, library, playground, specialist classrooms, church and hall) and outside of the school grounds (swimming pool, excursions and school camps). The need to ensure the safety of all students is paramount at St Catherine's School. Students with Critical and Life-Threatening Medical Conditions present the need for particular procedures to be followed in order for the school to best meet its duty of care.

Policy Procedures

St Catherine's will:

1. Upon diagnosis of the Medical Condition, meet with the parents to discuss and share the Policy and Procedures for Students with Critical and Life-threatening Medical Conditions. Record specific individual details of the student's condition, likely symptoms and necessary treatment.
2. Require the development of an individual *Emergency Action Plan* in conjunction with (and signed by) the student's Medical Specialist or GP.
3. Request that the Emergency Action Plan make specific reference to the medication needs of the child. For example: - Epi-pen carried with the child at all times
- Asthma puffer to be carried on the child's person
4. Discuss the implications of the *Emergency Action Plan* with the child's parents and with staff each year.
5. Place copies of the student's Emergency Action Plan in every classroom, administrative office, Nano Nagle Centre, Library and Tuckshop.
6. Inform staff members of the individual *Emergency Action Plan* for each student.

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7. Review the *Emergency Action Plan* on an annual basis (Assistant Principal – Administration, Class Teacher and parents).
8. Provide general medical training for staff on an annual basis from a recognised professional in the treatment of children who have anaphylaxis. Other conditions may also require specific medical input.
9. Inform class teachers, of any student who has particular medical needs, of the current procedures in place to cater for these needs.
10. Direct all casual / relief teachers to consult the *Emergency Action Plan* folders located within each classroom and Relief Teacher folders.
11. Ensure that when on excursions / outings, the student with a severe medical condition is placed in the group of a medically-trained staff member.
12. Develop and store an Action Checklist in each student's office file.
13. Classmates of that year level may receive specific information to assist in the recognition and treatment of the condition.
14. Written communication may be distributed to parents of students in the student's year level with general information regarding recognition of the condition and possible steps to assist in helping alleviate such an event e.g. regular washing of hands, suggestion of alternative foods.

Parents will:

15. Notify St Catherine's School of their child's medical condition upon application for enrolment, or upon diagnosis.
16. Provide the school with relevant medical / specialist reports and the *Emergency Action Plan* (see #2 above).
17. Notify the school of any changes to the *Emergency Action Plan* – upon request by the school or as changes arise.
18. Ensure their child wears a yellow "medical alert" wristband (supplied by the school). Students with severe and life-threatening medical conditions are required to wear a yellow wristband at all times (including free-dress days). This assists staff to more easily locate and identify the student in a group or in the playground.
19. Ensure all required medications are provided to the school and labelled as per **Medication Administration Request** requirements.
20. Ensure all supplied medications are within their use-by date. In accordance with Brisbane Catholic Education's **Medication to Students Procedure ****, out-of-date medication is not to be administered to students.
21. Ensure parent and emergency contact details are kept up to date.
22. Verify the accuracy of the contents of the *Emergency Action Plan*.
23. Take steps to ensure their child complies with the *Emergency Action Plan* and school policy.

** Available through the Parent Portal