



## SANDRINGHAM EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Students with Significant Health Needs Policy

#### **Rationale:**

Students enrolled at Sandringham East PS who have significant health problems require a supportive and flexible school environment that understands and responds to their individual health needs.

All students have a right to have their individual physical, social, emotional and academic needs identified and addressed.

#### **Aims:**

- To enable students with complex health needs to attend school
- To provide a school environment that is supportive of, and responsive to, the physical, social, emotional and academic needs of students with significant health problems.
- To ensure staff have an understanding and training in the specific health needs of students in their care

#### **Implementation:**

The school through *Principal/Senior management/Teaching staff* will:

- accept enrolments of students with complex health needs to SEPS when it is assessed to be appropriate
- provide parents and carers with a copy of the school's students with significant health care needs policy upon enrolment of their child
- inform all staff (including CRT staff) associated with students with health needs of the student's condition and requirements. Staff will be provided with professional development and/or specialised first aid training to enable them to meet the specialised needs of the student as required.
- where possible, ensure that all students with a complex health needs have a current written Student Health Support Plan (must be updated at least annually)
- use open communication processes including communications books and parent support group meetings.
- will access the assistance available to schools to support students needing complex medical care
- ensure School Council seek special equipment or facilities (ramps, disabled toilets ) according to student needs and as required.

If the student requires hospitalisation the school will:

- By forward planning provide flexible educational programs that can be modified or conducted at home or in hospital.
- Maintain open communication with educational facilities in hospitals so as to ensure a continuity of learning.

- Maintain appropriate contact with students during times in hospital, so as to provide social, emotional and academic support.
- Will provide support for siblings and close friends of students with significant health needs as appropriate.

**Parents/Carers will:**

- Meet with the Principal and key staff and provide a signed written Student Health Support Plan (See Appendix 1) to the school, and ensure that it is updated at least yearly or if circumstances change

**The Student Health Support Plan should:**

- be guided by medical advice received by the student's medical practitioner via the Department's Medical Advice Form
  - describe specific training requirements
  - include procedures that make use of local medical services such as ambulances, local doctors, health centres, hospitals and community nurses when practical
  - if administration of medication is required for the student, a Medication Authority Form (See Appendix 2) must be completed by the child's medical practitioner. The medication is to be administered according to the school's Medication Policy.
- Parents/carers are reminded that staff may not be qualified, competent or comfortable providing medication or support. Staff may reserve a right of refusal to perform certain medical tasks in some instances.
  - Parents have responsibility to provide the school, with all recommended medical resources and information required to care for their child at school and on camps/excursions.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Student Health Support Plan

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/supportplanning.aspx>

Appendix 2: Medication Authority Form

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/supportplanning.aspx>

References

School Policy and Advisory Guide, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (2014), [www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/spag/default.htm](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/governance/spag/default.htm)

**Evaluation:**

This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle.

**Approved by School Council March 2015**