



montessori school

Student Health Policies

1.1 Introduction

The School and its staff will take all reasonable steps to ensure the health of the School's students and other members of the School Community. The staff will assess health risks and respond in a responsible manner.

To facilitate this process the School will:

- Request students' medical information from parents/guardians;
- Require an action plan from a doctor via parents/guardians pertaining to any medical conditions;
- Display all medical alert records in a place easily accessible by staff;
- Keep Ventolin for asthma and an EpiPen in a secure, accessible place alongside the first-aid box;
- Notify parents/guardians to keep medical records up to date;
- Document the administration of medicine which is witnessed by another staff member;
- Ensure that prior to the administration of non-emergency medication parents fill in and sign the Authority to Administer Medication form;
- Replace medication that has expired;
- A digital Student Health File is kept for students when necessary.

1.2 Healthy Food and Drink Policy

Banksia Montessori school follows a 'healthy eating policy'. The objectives of this policy are to educate children about healthy eating habits, to implement classroom practices that support healthy eating and to provide parents with healthy eating information. This policy is discussed during orientation of new students and also reflected in the Parents Handbook. A healthy morning tea consisting of fruits and vegetables should be eaten daily. Morning tea and lunch time are used to teach the children healthy eating habits, refining finer motor coordination skills and grace and courtesy. Filtered water is also provided.

1.3 Allergy, anaphylaxis and asthma management Policy

Banksia Montessori School is committed to the care and management of those members of our School Community who suffer from specific allergies which may result in anaphylaxis and asthma.

The School cannot commit to a completely allergen free environment, however, we can commit to minimise the risk of exposure, encourage responsibility, and plan for responding effectively to both anaphylaxis and asthma emergencies.

The School will:

- Provide staff training for anaphylaxis and asthma;
- Have a management plan for the management of allergy, anaphylaxis and asthma;
- Minimise risk through practice and strategies;
- Liaise on an ongoing basis with parents of children who have these conditions;
- Encourage responsibility for their health condition in children from a young age;
- Develop a culture of care and compassion by seeking support from the School Community.

1.3.1 Responsibilities

Parents:

- Provided updated information to the school regarding the child's allergies, anaphylaxis requirements or asthma.
- Provide written advice from a doctor regarding their child's condition and needs.
- Provide all necessary medication to the School.
- Provide all special morning tea snacks.

Principal:

- Ensuring the School receives all supporting medical documentation for a child's medical condition and that this is stored safely.
- Ensuring that individual health care plans are clearly displayed in the classroom area.
- Ensuring that medication is taken on excursions and to the park.
- Ensuring that staff are adequately trained to administer an Epipen or Asthma inhaler.

Teachers and education assistants:

- Ensuring that they are adequately trained to administer an Epipen or Asthma inhaler.
- Ensuring that they know who the children are with medical conditions and what these conditions are.
- Encouraging practices within the school, that make it a safe place for children with allergies.

1.4 Communicable and infectious diseases policy

This policy will assist the Banksia School Community reduce the transference of communicable and infectious diseases within the School Environment. Controlling and preventing infectious diseases within a pre-school has its own challenges. While it is not possible to prevent all diseases, it is possible to reduce their transmission by reducing exposure and immunisation.

Immunisation in Australia saves lives. It prevents illnesses and deaths. Children who attend school should be fully immunised for the age. Proof of immunisation status should be supplied to Banksia Montessori School on enrolment. If a child is not immunised the parent should provide a conscientious objection form. A student who has not been immunised may be enrolled at the School. If a vaccine preventable communicable disease occurs at school, the child should not attend School until such time as the Principal advises that it is safe to do so.

Children who are ill with an infectious communicable disease should be excluded from school to prevent transmission to the rest of the School Community. The guidelines for exclusion times can be obtained online from the Department of Health, *Communicable Disease Guidelines*.

The Principal may request that a child return with a letter from a medical practitioner stating their readiness to return to School.

1.4.1 Procedures for managing infectious and communicable diseases

1. Disinfection, through handwashing, washing and cleaning surfaces.
2. Managing blood, body substances and contamination by; preventing contact and using disposable towels and gloves.
3. Each child to have their own water bottle.
4. Children are taught to cough into their arms and to sneeze using a tissue. Tissues are thrown into a bin and hands are washed.
5. After playtime outdoors hands are washed before going into the classroom.
6. After using the toilet hands are washed.
7. Children with symptoms of infectious and communicable diseases are encouraged to stay at home or are sent home by staff if symptoms are detected. These children are isolated from their peers in the office until such time as they are collected. During this time they are closely monitored by staff.

1.4.2 Specific Communicable Diseases

Head Lice (Pediculosis):

Children with head lice should be examined as soon as possible by staff to prevent person-to-person spread of the lice. If a child has head lice, they are treated sensitively and are encouraged to do individual work. When they are collected to go home the parent/guardian is informed that the child has head lice and a request is made that the child does not attend school until the lice have been treated. All other parents/guardians will be notified to check their own child's hair and treat if necessary. Parents/guardians will be reminded to check for lice daily for ten days after the first lice were found.

Conjunctivitis:

Conjunctivitis is highly contagious. It manifests with sore, red itchy eyes and nightly discharge. Children are infectious whilst the discharge is present and must stay away from school until their eyes have cleared up. All towels and bedding at home should be washed to reduce the incident of a reinfection.

School sores (Impetigo):

Impetigo is a skin infection which is itchy and causes scabs and pustules. Children who come into direct contact with the sores will become infected. A discharge from the sores indicates that the child is infectious. Antibiotics are normally prescribed for this infection and children should be excluded from school for 24 hours following the start of antibiotic treatment. All sores should be covered with clean, waterproof dressings.

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Signed by Chairperson:

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