

## HEALTH CARE NEEDS POLICY

### **RATIONALE:**

All students reserve the right to attend school and schools have an obligation to support all students with complex health care needs.

This policy applies to:

- 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.

This policy should be read with Findon Primary School's *First Aid*, *Administration of Medication*, *Anaphylaxis* and *Asthma* policies.

### **AIMS:**

To ensure that Findon Primary School provides appropriate support to students with health care needs. To explain to Findon PS parents/caregivers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

#### **Student Health Support Planning**

In order to provide appropriate support to students at Findon Primary School who may need complex medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by the School Nurse or nominated first aid officer in consultation with the Principal, student, their parents/caregivers and treating medical practitioners.

Student Health Support Plans help our school to assist students with:

- 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, seizure or diabetes management.

Students with complex medical care needs, for example tracheostomy care, seizure management, medication by injection or rectal suppository, administering suction, tube feeding, specialised medical procedures must have a Student Health Support Plan which provides for appropriate staff to undertake specific training to meet the student's particular needs.

At enrolment or when a health care need is identified, parents/caregivers 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, e.g. a letter from the General Practitioner).

Findon Primary School may invite parents/caregivers 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.

Where necessary, Findon Primary School may also request consent from parents/caregivers 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.

Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:

- when updated information is received from the student's medical practitioner
- when the school, student or parents/caregivers 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.

#### **Management of Confidential Medical Information**

Confidential medical information provided to Findon Primary School to support a student will be:

- 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 & EVALUATION:**

This policy shall be communicated as part of the school's annual induction, it will be available on the school website and via the front office upon request. It will be communicated at staff briefing and through relevant meetings at a cohort and individual level as required. This policy shall be reviewed as part of the school's three year review process.

**REFERENCES:**

Policy Advisory Library (PAL) – Health Care Needs Policy

<https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/health-care-needs/policy>

Findon Primary School First Aid Policies

<https://www.findonps.vic.edu.au/index.php/school-policies/>