

# Springvale Park Special Developmental School



## HEALTH CARE NEEDS POLICY

Springvale Park SDS is located in the south eastern suburb of Springvale, approximately 30km from Melbourne and enjoys an outstanding reputation within the local community. We strive to achieve the best educational outcomes for all students. We seek to provide an open and friendly learning environment which values and actively encourages visitors to the school. We consider the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people to be our highest priority. We strive to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at our school at all times. We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently. We are committed to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive school environment where all students can be happy, confident and resilient, regardless of their sexual or gender identity, cultural background disability or other circumstances. We take account of the diversity of all children, including the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children with disabilities and vulnerable children.

### PURPOSE

To ensure that Springvale Park Special Developmental School provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.

### OBJECTIVE

To explain to Springvale Park Special Developmental School parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.

### SCOPE

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.

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## POLICY

This policy should be read with Springvale Park SDS *First Aid, Administration of Medication, Anaphylaxis* and *Asthma* policies.

### Student health support planning

In order to provide appropriate support to students at Springvale Park SDS who may need medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by the teacher/PLC Coordinator in consultation with the student, their parents, carers 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 asthma, seizure or diabetes management.

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.

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.

Springvale Park SDS 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.

Where necessary, Springvale Park SDS 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 staff understand the student's needs. Consultation with the student's medical practitioner will not occur without parent/carer consent unless required or authorised by law.

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Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:

- 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.

## Management of confidential medical information

Confidential medical information provided to Springvale Park SDS 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

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Included in staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

## FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
  - Health Care Needs
  - Health Support Planning Forms
  - Complex Medical Care Supports
  - Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes
  - Privacy and Information Sharing

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## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	July 2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2026