

HEALTH CARE NEEDS POLICY



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact the school Policy Leader on 9112 9500 or via email info@footscray.vic.edu.au

PURPOSE

To ensure that Footscray High School provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.

OBJECTIVE

To explain to Footscray High 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 across all school campuses:

- 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

POLICY

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

Student health support planning

In order to provide appropriate support to students at Footscray High School who may need medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by the student wellbeing 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 (or relevant equivalent). Note: Template health planning forms are available here: <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/health-care-needs/resources>

Footscray High School 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, Footscray High School 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 school 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.

Where required, the international student coordinator will support in the development and consultation of the student health support plans.

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 Footscray High 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

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

- Available publicly on our school's website and Compass
- Included in staff induction and child safety training processes
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required
- Included in our staff handbook/manual
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Made available in hard copy 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](#)
- Administration of Medication Policy
- Anaphylaxis Policy
- Asthma Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Medication Administration Log
- Medication Authority Form

REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	August 2019
Consultation	School Council - October 2023
Endorsed by	Executive Principal
Endorsed on	October 2023
Mandatory minimum review cycle	3 - 4 Years
Next review date	October 2026 / 2027