RATIONALE
Approximately 1 in 6 children have currently diagnosed asthma. It is a common cause for school absenteeism and is a major cause of childhood admission to hospital. People die from asthma and more than half of these asthma deaths are preventable. With the appropriate management, the impact of asthma can be minimised.

AIM
To increase the awareness and understanding of asthma and to actively support the whole school community in the effective management of asthma.

SCHOOL ASTHMA RECORDS
At St. Mary’s all new enrolments are asked about their medical condition/s. If they do suffer from asthma then parents / guardians are asked to fill in a Student Asthma Record Sheet and return it to the school.

A list of all asthmatics is compiled at the beginning of each year and updated, if necessary, throughout the year. These lists are available at the office, in an asthma folder in the Reading Recovery Room and on the Medical Noticeboard in the Teachers’ Room.

Copies of all Student Asthma Record Sheets are kept in the following 2 places:

- In the asthma box located in the First Aid cupboard in the Reading Recovery Room. (this cupboard is locked, however, all teachers have access with their school key)
- In the school office with the secretaries

ASTHMA KITS
Asthma kits, in “bumbag” form, are kept with other playground “bumbags” for use on the playground near the Staff pigeon holes.

Another asthma kit (with a spacer and ventolin) is available in the First Aid cupboard in the Reading Recovery Room. All staff can access this cupboard.

There are 2 spare small asthma kits (with spacers) kept in the same cupboard for excursions or sporting events.

A Ventolin is also kept with the secretaries in the Office.
SCHOOL EXCURSIONS
At St. Mary’s, all students attending excursions are asked to return a medical form beforehand detailing any medical conditions.

Students with asthma are always encouraged verbally and through notes to parents to bring their puffer / medication with them on the excursion.

On overnight excursions, asthmatics are asked to fill out a School Camp Asthma Management Plan. These plans are then taken by staff on the camp in case of emergencies.

SCHOOL SPORTING EVENTS
At St. Mary’s all students are encouraged to participate in all sporting activities in our school. Asthmatics are always encouraged to carry their medication with them to sport and to use it when necessary. First aid kits and a mobile phone are taken to all sporting events.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
At St. Mary’s classrooms are vacuumed once a week and ceiling fans cleaned regularly. Carpets are shampooed annually.
No smoking is allowed on the school premises and any necessary spraying is carried out in school holidays.

STAFF INSERVICING
At St. Mary’s each classroom has a copy of “Asthma First Aid” poster displayed. A copy of this poster is also kept in the asthma folder / First Aid Kit in the Reading Recovery Room and in the office.

Staff read through this asthma policy and revise the first aid needed in an asthma attack each year.

All staff are required to update their first aid training each year and their CPR every second year.

A member of the Community Health Services will revise asthma treatment with the staff.

STUDENT LEARNING
As teachers complete the strands of the PDHPE syllabus, they will ensure that asthma and its prevention / treatment/ medication are discussed at an appropriate level for their students. The location of asthma equipment in our school will also be revised with the older students.