



HEALTH CARE NEEDS POLICY

1. PURPOSE

1.1. To ensure that the Victorian College of the Arts Secondary School provides appropriate support to students with health care needs.

2. OBJECTIVE

2.1. To explain to VCASS parents, carers, staff and students the processes and procedures in place to support students with health care needs at school.

3. SCOPE

3.1. This policy applies to:

- a) all staff, including casual relief staff and volunteers
- b) all students who have been diagnosed with a health care need that may require support, monitoring or medication at school.
- c) students who have been identified at risk of developing a health care need

4. POLICY

4.1. This policy should be read with VCASS' [Administration of Medication Policy](#), [Anaphylaxis Policy](#) and [First Aid Policy](#).

5. STUDENT HEALTH SUPPORT PLANNING

5.1. In order to provide appropriate support to students at VCASS who may need medical care or assistance, a Student Health Support Plan will be prepared by the Head of Student Services or Assistant Head of Student Services and Year Level Coordinator in consultation with the student, their parents, carers and treating medical practitioners.

5.2. Student Health Support plans help our school to assist students with:

- a) routine health care support needs, such as supervision or provision of medication
- b) personal care support needs, such as assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers and positioning, and use of health-related equipment
- c) emergency care needs, such as predictable emergency first aid associated with asthma, seizure or diabetes management.
- d) modification of specialist program, as required

5.3. 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.

5.4. 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).

- 5.5. If at any point during a student's enrolment, concerns are raised about the student's ability to participate safely in their specialist program, the school will request a Fit for Specialist Training document from the student's treating medical/health care practitioner to verify that the student will be able to undertake the requirements of the specialist program
- 5.6. VCASS 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.
- 5.7. Where necessary, VCASS 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.
- 5.8. Student Health Support Plans will be reviewed:
 - a) when updated information is received from the student's medical practitioner
 - b) when the school, student or parents and carers have concerns with the support being provided to the student
 - c) if there are changes to the support being provided to the student, or
 - d) on an annual basis

6. MANAGEMENT OF CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL INFORMATION

- 6.1. Confidential medical information provided to VCASS to support a student will be:
 - a) recorded on the student's file
 - b) shared with all relevant staff so that they are able to properly support students diagnosed with medical conditions and respond appropriately if necessary

7. COMMUNICATION

- 7.1. This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:
 - a) Included in staff induction processes and staff training
 - b) Available publicly on our school's website
 - c) Included in staff handbook/manual
 - d) Discussed at staff briefings/meetings as required

8. FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

- 8.1. the Department's Policy and Advisory Library (PAL):
 - a) [Health Care Needs](#)
 - b) [Health Support Planning Forms](#)
 - c) [Complex Medical Care Supports](#)
 - d) [Child and Family Violence Information Sharing Schemes](#)
 - e) [Privacy and Information Sharing](#)

8.2. Local policies:

- a) [Administration of Medication Policy](#)
- b) [Anaphylaxis Policy](#)
- c) [First Aid Policy](#)

8.3. Other resources:

- a) [Butterfly Foundation](#)
- b) [The Victorian Centre of Excellence in Eating Disorders \(CEED\)](#)

9. POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	December 2025
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	July 2028