



Help for non-English speakers, if you need help to understand the information in this policy, please contact the school office.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that schools support students with diabetes and to provide advice for schools as they develop and implement support and management plans for students living with diabetes.

What is diabetes?

Diabetes mellitus, or diabetes, is a condition where there is too much glucose in the blood. The body can't make insulin, enough insulin or is not effectively using the insulin it does make. Over time high glucose levels can damage blood vessels and nerves, resulting in long term health complications including heart, kidney, eye and foot damage.

There are main types of diabetes; all types are complex and serious. The three main types of diabetes are:

- Type 1
- Type 2
- Gestational diabetes

Hypoglycaemia (Hypo) — Low blood glucose

Hypoglycaemia occurs when the blood glucose level drops below a normal level. Hypoglycaemia can be caused by too much insulin; delaying a meal; not enough food; or unplanned or unusual exercise. A 'hypo' can be dangerous if not treated promptly and can potentially cause irrational or confused behaviour, a seizure and possible loss of consciousness. It is important to treat hypos rapidly as students can feel unwell and their judgment and cognitive abilities may be impaired.

Hyperglycaemia (Hyper) — High blood glucose

Hyperglycaemia is a condition in which the blood glucose increases above the normal level. Hyperglycaemia can be caused by insufficient insulin; too much food; common illness; and/or stress. This state should be avoided where possible and persistent high levels reported back to parents.

Hypo kit

Includes prescribed fast-acting and slow-acting carbohydrates and is easily accessible by students and staff for prompt treatment of hypoglycaemia in line with the Diabetes Action Plan.

Diabetes Management Plans

Upon enrolment or when a health care need, such as diabetes, is identified, schools in conjunction with parents or carers and the student's treating medical team are required to develop a clear and tailored health support plan to support the student's individual health care needs.

Diabetes Management Plans and Action Plans (with companion documents) must be completed and signed by the hospital treating team responsible for the student's diabetes care before being provided to the school by the student's parents or carers.

Support to students

A student's individualised **Diabetes Management Plan** and **Diabetes Action Plan** documents the treatment prescribed by the diabetes treating team, to manage the condition throughout the school day and when blood glucose falls outside the normal range.

The **Student Health Support Plan**, to be completed by the school, summarises how schools will implement these plans, including any reasonable adjustments the school will make to support students to participate fully at school.

These plans, once signed by the parents/carers and school representative, authorise the school to provide the prescribed treatment and consent for the agreed supports to be put into place.

Impact at school

Most students with diabetes can enjoy and participate in school life and curriculum to the full. However, due to their diabetes they may need:

- special consideration when participating in sport, excursions, camps and other activities
- extra diabetes management plans for overnight camps and excursions prepared by the student's treating medical team
- special consideration during exams and tests
- extra toilet provisions
- extra consideration if unwell
- some individual supervision
- to eat at additional times, especially when involved in physical activity
- special provisions for privacy when checking blood glucose levels and injecting insulin, if required

Students may require some time away from school to attend medical appointments, but in general, attendance at school will not be an ongoing issue.

Activities, special events, school camps and excursions

Camps, excursions and special events enhance self-esteem, promote confidence and independence and are an important part of school education. Students with diabetes can generally participate fully in camps, excursions and special events.

Schools are required to make reasonable adjustments in order to enable the student to attend activities including excursions and camps.

- The student's Health Support Plan must be reviewed before a student attends an excursion or camp and a specific diabetes camp plan must be created by the student's treating medical team, in consultation with the parents or carers.
- Staff members who will provide assistance with the diabetes management must be identified.

- Schools cannot require parental attendance as a condition of the student attending the excursion or camp. However, if the parents or carers wish to attend the excursion or camp and this is consistent with school policy and practice in relation to parents attending excursions or camps, then this may be agreed to at the discretion of the principal.
- Schools must develop risk assessment plans in consultation with the student's parents or carers that identify foreseeable risks and provide reasonable steps to minimise and manage those risks. The plan must consider the potential for injury to the student and/or others and include details about the camp or excursion, including the location, remoteness, risk-level of the activities, transport and sleeping arrangements, proposed supervision and information relating to the student's needs and diabetes.

If schools are providing food in the event of camps or other special events, reasonable adjustments must be made to allow students with diabetes to participate. A discussion with the parents or carers prior to the event, camp or excursion is recommended to develop an appropriate response for each case.

Staff training

Principals must:

- ensure all staff are aware of which students have type 1 diabetes, have a basic understanding of diabetes and know how to safely respond in an emergency
- ensure a sufficient number of Responsible Staff are trained, capable and available daily to provide the treatment prescribed in a student's individual Diabetes Management Plan and Diabetes Action Plan
- fund and facilitate professional development for school staff, appropriate to a student's individual needs

All staff need:

- a basic understanding of type 1 diabetes and how to respond in an emergency. It's recommended that schools use the Diabetes Victoria Diabetes at School online (<https://diabetesatschool.com.au/>) education package that can be accessed by all school staff.

The 3 to 5-minute, self-directed learning modules will help to ensure that all school staff understand type 1 diabetes and how it impacts on a student's day to day life, provide knowledge about how to respond appropriately to students experiencing hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia and information about Diabetes Action and Management plans.

Responsible staff must:

- undertake appropriate training to develop confidence and competence to provide the treatment prescribed in the Diabetes Management Plan and Diabetes Action Plan

If you have any questions, please contact the staff at school or refer to <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/diabetes/policy>

COMMUNICATION

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

- Available publicly on our school's website (or via Compass)
- Discussed at parent information nights/sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	09/05/2023
Approved by	Principal
Next scheduled review date	09/05/2024

