

Asthma Policy



School Asthma Policy

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art, PE, science, educational visits and out of hours activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take
- Endeavours that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and know the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack

Asthma Medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor/asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom. It is advised that the school is provided with a labelled, **in date** spare reliever inhaler.

These are held in case the pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten and are kept in the Medical Room. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. If a parent/carer has stated that their child requires an inhaler in school but does not supply an in-date inhaler, the school will take the following action:

Phone the parent/carer and request that the inhaler is brought into school without delay. The phone call will be logged. Further conversations may be appropriate, at the discretion of the school.

If the parent/carer fails to supply the inhaler as requested, the school will write to the parent. This repeats the request for the inhaler. If the school does not have signed consent for the emergency inhaler and a replacement inhaler is not received, in the event of an asthma attack, staff will be unable to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services. The letter will be filed with the child's asthma information form.

School Emergency Inhaler

In the event of a child's inhaler (that is kept in school), failing to operate, the school staff will administer the use of the school's own inhaler, subject to written authorisation previously given by the parent. The school will only administer the inhaler with either the child's own spacer or a new spacer supplied by the school - which will then be passed on to the parent or disposed of.

Designated staff will be responsible for the storage and care of the school's Emergency Asthma Inhaler Kit ensuring that:

- on a monthly basis the inhaler and spacers are present in working order, and the inhaler has the sufficient number of doses available;
- that replacement inhalers are obtained when expiry dates approach;
- replacement spacers are available following use;
- the plastic inhaler housing (which holds the canister) has been cleaned, dried and returned to storage following use, or that replacements are available if necessary.

The school will ensure that the inhalers and spacers are kept in a safe and suitably central location in the school, such as the school office/medical room, which is known to all staff, and to which all staff have access at all times, but in which the inhaler is out of the reach and sight of children. The inhaler and spacer will not be locked away.

School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will facilitate or allow pupils to take their medicine when they need to.

If staff feel that a pupil's asthma is not well controlled for example they require the reliever inhaler very regularly, have frequent symptoms, they should discuss this with the school nurse. The school nurse may then meet with the family to provide education or make an onward referral to the Paediatric Respiratory Nursing team.

Record Keeping

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school, for the school's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are given an asthma form to complete and return to school. From this information the school keeps its asthma records. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the school about any change in their child's medication or treatment.

Exercise and Activity - PE and Games

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent/carer on the asthma form) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down. Each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson.

School Environment

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school will take into consideration any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibility of exposure to these triggers.

Asthma Attacks – School's Procedure

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the school procedure:

- Encourage the pupil to use their inhaler
- Summon a first aider who will bring the pupil's Asthma Information Form and will ensure that the inhaler is used according to the dosage on the form
- If the pupil's condition does not improve or worsens, the First Aider will follow the 'Emergency asthma treatment' procedures
- The First Aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition
- If there is any doubt about a pupil's condition an ambulance will be called

Access and Review of Policy

The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school's website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office. This policy will be reviewed annually.