

The School:

- Recognises that asthma is a serious condition affecting many school age children;
- Ensures that pupils with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE/Forest School/Trips;
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital;
- Keeps records of pupils with asthma and the medication they take;
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma;
- Ensures that other pupils understand asthma as appropriate to their age;
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack;
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure that policy is implemented and maintained successfully.

School Asthma Policy

This Policy has been written with advice from the DFE Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school (Sept 2014), Wye Valley NHS Trust (17/09/13), NHS UK, Asthma UK, Parents, First Aiders and asthma sufferers.

Our school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, the Governors and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who comes into contact with pupils with asthma will know who amongst school staff is first aid trained to assist with effective treatment.

1. Medication.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse and Class Teacher agree they are mature enough. It is the Parents' responsibility to ensure that the school is provided with labelled inhalers. The inhalers of all pupils will be stored in the Classroom in a named box. All staff and children in the class will know its location which will also be flagged up clearly in the room for supply teachers. KS2 children will take own inhalers when going off site. (A member of staff will carry the school emergency inhaler) school staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this, and have received training, are insured by the school when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medication when they need to. In an emergency where a pupil is having an attack i.e. if the school have called for an Ambulance, and that pupil does not have an reliever inhaler in school, the school's emergency inhaler may be used. All parents, whose children have an asthma diagnosis, will have been sent a permission letter which they will have signed and returned to school. In this situation, the use of a spacer is strongly recommended and the other pupil's reliever should be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe before use. These will be washed and sterilised with a sterilising fluid between uses.

2. Record keeping.

When a pupil starts at school, medical conditions, if any, including Asthma are noted. These conditions are noted on a record for medical conditions and Parental Consent which is held in the school office and in addition in the individual class registers. If the GP or Hospital has produced a written Personal Asthma Action Plan for the pupil, Parents are to be encouraged to give a copy to school. All other children who have a diagnosis will be covered by the school's group care plan. When medicine/asthma inhaler is administered, this is recorded by the school and a note is sent home to parents.

3. Emergency Evacuation of Premises

In the event of a fire drill or any evacuation procedure teachers MUST take the box of inhalers out with them from their classrooms.

4. PE/Forest School/Trips.

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which pupils have asthma from the medical register. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE, but will not be forced to take part in that activity if they feel unwell. Likewise, they will not be excluded from participation if their asthma is well controlled. If needed when on site a pupil or TA may fetch the box from the Classroom. Pupils travelling to Forest School/Trip activities will take their Asthma medication with them. Swimming - inhalers to be taken by teacher or TA Pupils can take 2-4 puffs from their reliever prior to activity dependent on their personal needs.

5. The School environment.

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a non-smoking policy. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the medical office if particular fumes trigger their asthma. School complies with CLEAPPS advice.

6. When a pupil is falling behind in lessons.

If a pupil is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the Class Teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate that Teacher will then talk to the school nurses and SENCO about the situation, the school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

7. Mild Asthma attacks.

The school will follow this procedure:-

A - Mild cough/tightness

Give 2 puffs from reliever, using spacer if necessary – wait 10 minutes to see how pupil responds, then return to activity if feeling ok. Pupil may feel ok to complete this treatment independently.

B - Tightness continues or worsens

Pupil may ask for help or appear tight with wheeze and/or cough.

Give 4 to 6 puffs via spacer. Wait 10-15 minutes to see how pupil responds, then return to activity if feeling ok.

C - If Asthma gets worse

They can have up to 10 puffs from reliever via spacer. Wait 10-15 minutes to see how pupil responds. Pupil will normally be in First Aid area/Office by this time. School will attempt to contact Parent/carer.

8. Acute/Severe Asthma attacks.

The school will normally follow Steps A, B & C above if breathing deteriorates and pupil cannot form a sentence without taking a breath (broken speech):

D - Call 999/112 for Ambulance, stating pupil's age, gender, severe asthma attack with breathing difficulties;

E - Give 10 puffs from reliever every 10 minutes whilst waiting for Ambulance;

F - Help the casualty to breathe by sitting them down, ensuring correct treatment postures, tight clothing loosened;

G - Prepare to resuscitate if breathing ceases;

H - Calm and reassure the casualty.

After any attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a pupil's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The pupil's parents/carer will be told about the attack through the use of a letter sent home that day.

Emergency procedure

Contact Ambulance on 999/112 and parent/carer urgently from the school office if:

- 1. The reliever has no effect after 10 to 15 minutes**
- 2. The casualty is either distressed or unable to talk**
- 3. The casualty is getting exhausted or cyanosed (blue lipped)**

If pupil has forgotten reliever or the contents run out during treatment, then the use of the school emergency inhaler is acceptable. The use of a spacer is strongly recommended and the reliever should be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe i.e. Medi-wipe before use.

Important things to remember in asthma attacks:

- Never leave a pupil having an asthma attack;
- If the pupil does not have their inhaler and/or spacer with them, send another teacher or pupil to their classroom or assigned room to get their spare inhaler and/or spacer;
- In an emergency situation school staff are required under common law, duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent;
- Reliever medicine is very safe. During an asthma attack do not worry about a pupil overdosing;
- Send another pupil to get another Teacher/Adult if an Ambulance needs to be called;
- Contact the pupil's parents or carers immediately after calling the Ambulance/doctor;
- A member of staff should always accompany a pupil taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until their parent or carer arrives.
- Generally staff will not take pupils to hospital in their own car. However, in some emergency situations it may be the best course of action.
- Another adult will always accompany anyone driving a pupil having an asthma attack to emergency services.

A flowchart showing the process for First Aid treatment in the event of an asthma attack is shown below.

Reviewed by the Health and Safety Committee.

Signed by:

_____ Headteacher

Date: _____

_____ Chair of Premises/Health and Safety

Date: _____

To be reviewed November 2022

