



ASTHMA POLICY

Policy reviewed on:

27-3-14

Review date:

27-3-15

Signed:


Chair of Governors

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/carers, doctor/asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom, if deemed necessary.

It is advised that the school is provided with 2 labelled, in date spare reliever inhalers for children especially for those who are regular users or are carrying one inhaler on them during the school day. The second inhalers 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/carers.

If a parent/carers 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/carers and request that the inhaler is brought into school without delay. This phone call will be logged in the child's file. Further conversations/text messages may be appropriate, at the discretion of the school.
- If the parent/carers fails to supply the inhaler as requested, the school will contact the parent/carers using the example letter attached. (See Appendix 1). This repeats the request for the inhaler and states that without the inhaler, 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 in the child's file.

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 pupils to take their medicines when they need to.

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 the Asthma Information Form to complete and return to school (See Appendix 2). From this information the school keeps its asthma records which will be kept with the child's inhaler at school. All teachers will 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 will be aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down.

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 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' procedure (as detailed on the following page)
- The First Aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition and contact parent/carers.
- 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 on a two yearly cycle.

EMERGENCY ASTHMA TREATMENT

Asthma attacks & wheeziness

Signs of worsening asthma:

- Not responding to reliever medication
 - Breathing faster than usual
 - Difficulty speaking in sentences
 - Difficulty walking/lethargy
 - Pale or blue tinge to lips/around the mouth
 - Appears distressed or exhausted
-
- Give **2 puffs of the blue inhaler via a spacer**
 - Reassess after 2 minutes
 - If the child still feels wheezy or appears to be breathless they should have a further **2 puffs of the blue inhaler every 2 minutes**
 - **If their symptoms are not relieved with a total of 10 puffs of the blue inhaler then this should be viewed as a serious attack:**
 - **CALL AN AMBULANCE and CALL PARENT**
 - While waiting for an ambulance continue to give 2 puffs of the reliever inhaler every 2 minutes
 - Advise Parent to make appointment to have an asthma review with the asthma nurse after discharge from hospital

APPENDIX 1

{dated}

Dear Parent / Carer,

Asthma Inhaler

Following our communication with you regarding {child's name}'s asthma inhaler, I am very concerned that a replacement inhaler has not been provided.

You have stated on their Asthma Information Form that {child's name} requires an inhaler in school and you have agreed to provide an inhaler with spacer should they need it.

Please ensure that an inhaler and spacer are provided without delay.

If {child's name} no longer requires an inhaler, please request their Asthma Information Form from the School Office so that it can be updated.

Please be aware that in the absence of an inhaler, should {child's name} suffer an attack, staff will not be able to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services.

Yours sincerely,

NJG Phillips
Headteacher

APPENDIX 2

Dear Parent / Carer,

Asthma Information Form

Please complete the questions below so that the school has the necessary information about your child's asthma. We would be grateful if you could return the form to our School Office without delay.

Child's Name:

Class:

1. Does your child need an inhaler in school: Yes / No
2. Please provide information on your child's current treatment (including the name, type of inhaler, the dose, how many puffs and whether they need a spacer?)
.....
.....
3. What triggers your child's asthma?
.....
4. Do you give consent for the following treatment to be given to your child as recognised by Asthma Specialists in an emergency?
 - Give **6 puffs** of the blue inhaler with spacer
 - Reassess after 5 minutes
 - If the child still feels wheezy or appears to be breathless they should have a further 4 puffs of the blue inhaler
 - Reassess after 5 minutes
 - If their symptoms are not relieved with 10 puffs of the blue inhaler then this could be classed as a serious attack
 - **Call an ambulance and Parents/Carers**
 - While waiting for an ambulance continue to give 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler every few minutes

Yes / No - Signed:
(I am the person with parental responsibility)

Date:

Carrying their own inhaler/or using an inhaler regularly:

If your child can manage and carry their own inhaler or is a regular user, a second inhaler must be provided by the parent/carer to be kept in school at all times. This is in the event that the first inhaler runs out, is lost, forgotten or left at home. Inhalers **must be clearly labelled with your child's name** and replaced before they reach their expiry date.

Please circle the appropriate statements:

- My child carries their own inhaler and can self-administer without the need for first aider assistance or monitoring
- My child requires a spacer and I have given this to the school office
- My child does not require a spacer

I agree to ensure that my child has 2 in-date inhalers and a spacer (if required) in school.

Signed: Date:

Please remember to inform the school if there are any changes in your child's treatment or condition. If your child no longer requires an inhaler, please complete the form at the bottom of this page.

Yours sincerely,

NJG Phillips
Headteacher

Parental Update (only to be completed if your child no longer has asthma):

My child no longer has asthma, and therefore does not require an inhaler in school or on visits.

Signed: Date:
(I am the person with parental responsibility)