



Asthma Policy

Agreed by Governors: Autumn 2019
To be reviewed: Autumn 2022

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils and staff at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils and staff with asthma. This 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, their employers (the local authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training. This policy is reviewed and training updated once a year.

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 or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough (usually Key Stage 2) parents are asked to complete a *Request for a Child to Carry their own Medication* form on the understanding that pupils will inform an appropriate adult if they have taken their inhaler. We also ask that an additional inhaler be left in the classroom. The reliever inhalers of all children are kept in the classroom storeroom in a labelled container with the child's photograph on out of children's reach. All inhalers should be in their original containers, showing the pupil's name, expiry date, and prescription and administration information along with a completed *School Asthma Health Care Plan*.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to. The school has chosen to buy an emergency salbutamol inhaler from our local pharmacist, as per Department of Health guidance (Sept. 2014), it will only be administered to children whose parents have completed the *Parental Agreement for School to Administer Emergency Inhalers Medication* form.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an *Asthma Management Pack* to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. *Asthma Management Packs* are then sent

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to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the information for new if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Out-of-hours sport

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.

Teachers, classroom teachers and out of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All staff are provided with training from the school nurse, who has had asthma training.

School Trips and Visits

All year groups make visits to a wide variety of places throughout the year in order to enhance learning. Pupils with asthma are always included in risk assessments for these visits and procedures are planned for to minimise risks to pupils with asthma. Inhalers are always taken on school trips for any child with asthma and these children are identified to the adults in charge.

School environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-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 with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

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Making the school asthma-friendly

The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma. Asthma can be included in the National Curriculum Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs.

The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by *Guidance for the Management of Asthma in Secondary and Primary Schools in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin (March 2015, p.30)*. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom, every classroom and with every child's reliever medication.

Staff with Asthma

Any staff who suffer from Asthma should speak to the head teacher about their needs and any special provision required.

Equal Opportunities (see Equal Opportunities Policy)

Equal opportunities is about ensuring that every member of the school community is regarded as being of equal worth and importance, irrespective of culture, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, learning abilities, sensory or physical impairment, social class or lifestyle. This also applies to people with asthma; it is about recognising differences, meeting individual needs and taking positive action, so that everyone has equal access to the educational opportunities offered by the school; it is also about regularly monitoring that each child has the opportunity to achieve.

Signed..... Date.....

(Head teacher)

Signed.....Date.....

(Chair of Governors)