

**ASTHMA POLICY**

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**Background**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills and Asthma UK.

This school recognizes that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils 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 make 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. Training is updated once a year.

**Asthma medicines**

* Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers for all children are kept securely in the classroom under the immediate control of the class teacher, to be accessible to children as required.
* Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler which can be left in school. All inhalers must be labelled with the child’s name.
* School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency). School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will allow pupils to take their own asthma inhalers when they need to.
* It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to check inhalers regularly and to replace them as necessary.

**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 as part of admission procedures.
* The school keeps a record of all children with Asthma.
* Parents/carers are requested to inform the school immediately if their child’s medication or dosage changes.

**Exercise and Activity – P.E. 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 Sports Coaches/Dance teachers are made aware which pupils have asthma.
* Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all P.E. lessons. Teachers/Coaches will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson if necessary and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.
* Teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.
* 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. The school, therefore, involves pupils with asthma in after school clubs as much as possible.
* Teachers and Sports Coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, strategies to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. Teachers and Sports Coaches are provided with training.

**School Environment**

* The school does all that it can to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons which are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

**When a pupil is falling behind**

* If a pupil is having a lot of time off school or is always tired as a result of asthma disturbing their sleep, the class teacher will initially talk to parents/carers to discuss how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and Special Needs Co-ordinator about the pupil’s needs.
* The school recognizes that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma.

**Asthma Attacks**

* Class teachers/first aiders know what action to take in the event of a child having an asthma attack.