



# **Policies**

## **Asthma Policy**

### **(Including Emergency Inhaler)**

**Next Review – December 2025**



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## **Rationale**

This policy recommends that as well as the reliever inhaler the student brings daily to school, all parents can provide a spare inhaler as well if they so wish. This policy has been created following the change in legislation which allows the school to keep an emergency inhaler and can be used if the student's prescribed inhaler and spare inhaler are not available. (For example, the inhaler is broken or empty).

## **Purpose**

This policy ensures that the arrangements the school has put in place supports students with asthma and meets any statutory responsibilities.

## **Guidelines**

The following legislation and guidance are referred to for this asthma policy.

- Supporting Pupils at school with medical conditions (Dec 2015)
- DFE Guidance of the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools (March 2015)
- Asthma UK Website
- Equality Act 2010
- HCCS Medical Conditions Policy

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

The following roles and responsibilities are used for the asthma policy at this school.

- The Governing Body
- Head Teacher
- All School Staff
- Teaching Staff
- Health Care Officer
- First Aiders
- Special Educational Needs Co-coordinators
- Upper and Lower school welfare officers.
- Local doctors and specialist healthcare professionals
- Emergency care services
- Students
- Parents

## **Policy statement**

As a school, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition. This school welcomes all pupils with asthma and aims to support these children in participating fully in school life.

We endeavour to do this by ensuring we have:

- An asthma register
- Up-to-date asthma policy
- All pupils with immediate access to their reliever inhalers at all times
- Students own emergency inhalers are kept in a safe and suitable location such as the school office which is known by all staff.
- All pupils have an up-to-date healthcare plan (please note as detailed in the school medical conditions policy it is the parent's responsibility to complete a Health Care Plan and make school aware of any changes)
- An emergency salbutamol inhaler, stored in the school office and medical room.
- Ensure all staff have regular asthma training
- Promote asthma awareness to pupils, parents and staff.

## **Policy framework**

The policy framework describes the essential criteria for how the school can meet the needs of children and young people with asthma.

### **Asthma Register**

The school has an asthma register of students within the school, which is updated annually or when changes are notified by parents/carers. The school will do this by asking parents/carers if their child has been diagnosed as asthmatic or has been prescribed a reliever inhaler. When parents/carers have confirmed that their child is asthmatic or has been prescribed a reliever inhaler we ensure that the student has been added to the asthma register and ask that the parent/carer completes a healthcare plan.

- An opt out scheme will be in place for use of the emergency salbutamol inhaler

### **Health Care Officer.**

The school has a Health Care Officer. It is the responsibility of the Health Care Officer to:

- Manage the asthma register
- Update the asthma policy
- Manage the emergency salbutamol inhalers by performing monthly checks
- Ensuring replacement inhalers are obtained when expiry dates approach and disposable spacers are available (prevents the possible risk of cross-infection).

### **Medication and inhalers**

All students with asthma should be encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler (usually blue) and should have access to their emergency inhalers should this be required. Some students have a preventative inhaler, which is usually taken morning and night, as prescribed by a

doctor/nurse. Students should not bring their preventative inhaler to school as it should be taken regularly as prescribed by their doctor/nurse at home. However, if the student is going on a residential or school trip, we are aware that they will need to take the inhaler with them so they can continue taking their inhaler as prescribed. The school medical conditions policy refers.

### **Healthcare Plans**

The school believes it is essential that all children with asthma have a personal healthcare plan to ensure their asthma is managed effectively within the school to prevent hospital admissions. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to keep the school informed of any changes to their child's asthma needs. As detailed in the school medical conditions policy the school will on an annual basis write out to all parents/carers to request updates to their child's healthcare plan.

### **Staff Training**

Staff will need regular asthma updates and this can be provided by the Health Care Officer.

### **School Environment**

The school does all it can to ensure the school environment is favorable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definitive no-smoking policy on site. Student's asthma triggers will be recorded as part of their healthcare plan and the school will ensure that the pupils will not come into contact with their triggers, where possible.

The school is aware that triggers can include:

- Colds and infection
- Dust and house dust mite
- Pollen, spores and molds
- Feathers
- Furry animals
- Exercise, laughing
- Stress
- Cold air, change in the weather
- Chemicals, glue, paint, aerosols
- Food allergies
- Fumes and cigarette smoke

### **Exercise and activity**

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all students. All staff will know which students in their class have asthma and all PE teachers in the school will be aware of which pupils have asthma from the school asthma register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all activities. It is agreed with PE staff that all students will be encouraged to carry their inhaler with them. If a student needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

### **Emergency Salbutamol inhaler in school**

As a school we are able to purchase salbutamol inhalers and disposable spacers without a prescription.

We have 2 emergency kits, which are kept in the Medical Room and Reception. We will advise students to still take their own inhaler with them on all school trips and each residential.

Each kit contains:

- A salbutamol metered dose inhaler
- At least two disposable spacers
- Instructions on using the inhaler and spacer
- Instruction on cleaning and storing the inhaler
- Manufacturer's information – a checklist of inhalers, identified by their batch number and expiry date, with monthly checks recorded.
- A list of Students on the Asthma Register showing any students who have opted out of using the emergency inhaler. If a student's parents have opted out, a call to parents must be made and verbal consent obtained. This should be recorded on Bromcom under medical events.
- A record of administration on the enclosed sheet and in medical events on Bromcom.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by students who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a reliever inhaler or who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler.

The parents/carers will always be informed in writing (email) if their child has used the school inhaler.

Any puffs should be documented so that it can be monitored when the inhaler is running out.

The school will use disposable spacers so there is no risk of cross-infection.

Spent inhalers will be returned to the Health Care Officer to be recycled.

### **This school's asthma policy has been drawn up in consultation with a wide range of local key stakeholders within both the school and health settings**

These key stakeholders include:

- Head Teacher
- School Nurse

- Health Care Officer
- school staff
- Local healthcare professionals
- School governors

**The asthma policy is regularly reviewed evaluated and updated.**

This school's asthma policy is reviewed and evaluated regularly in line with the school's policy review timeline.

### **References:**

Further information and associated advice, guidance and resources for asthma can be found on the DFE link –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3/supporting-pupils-with-medical-conditions-links-to-other-useful-resources--2>

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/416468/emergency\\_inhalers\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf)