



SCHOOL ASTHMA/INHALER POLICY

This policy has been written with advice from the National Asthma Campaign, Department of Education & Employment and Healthcare Professionals.

POLICY STATEMENT

This school recognises that asthma and recurrent wheezing are important conditions affecting many school children, and welcomes pupils with these conditions.

This school encourages children with asthma to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers and pupils.

All staff who have contact with children with asthma are given the opportunity to receive training from the school nursing team. This training is updated at regular intervals.

MEDICATION

Immediate access to inhalers is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their inhalers with them, at the discretion of the parent/teacher and depending on the maturity of the child. As a guidance we would recommend that:

KEY STAGE1 Inhalers will be kept by the class teacher in the classroom in a designated place, of which all pupils will be made aware.
If occasional use – kept in Office First Aid box.

KEY STAGE 2 Inhalers will be kept by the pupil.
If occasional use – kept in Office First Aid box.

All inhalers will be labelled by the parent with the child's name. Many children will identify for themselves the need to take their medication, and should be allowed to do so, as and when they feel it necessary.

School staff are not required to administer medication, as it is self administered. However, in an emergency it may become necessary to assist the child to take their medication. Staff who agree to do this, and act in accordance with this policy and its allied guidelines, will be insured by the Local Education Authority.

RECORD KEEPING

When a child joins a school, parents/guardians are asked if their child has asthma/recurrent wheezing. They are asked to complete a form giving details of the condition and the treatment required. Information from this form is used to compile an Asthma Register which is available for all school staff.

This form will be updated annually from information received from the parents, and in between times if medication changes are made.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life and children with asthma/recurrent wheezing are encouraged to participate fully in P.E.

Symptoms of asthma are often brought on by exercise and therefore, each child's labelled inhaler will be available at the site of the lesson.

Certain types of exercise are potential triggers for asthma/recurrent wheezing e.g. cross-country running. Any child who knows that this type of exercise does bring on symptoms, will be allowed to take their inhaler prior to exercise, carry it with them throughout and will be encouraged to gently warm up before the exercise.

SCHOOL TRIPS

No child will be denied the opportunity to take part in school trips/holidays because of asthma/recurrent wheezing, unless so advised by their GP.

Their Reliever inhaler will be readily available to them throughout the trip, being carried either by the child themselves or by the adult supervising the group which they are in, whichever is most appropriate.

Group leaders need to be trained in the prevention of asthma, as well as the emergency management. They will have appropriate contact numbers with them.

EDUCATION

This school will be encouraged and supported by the School Health Care Team to include asthma education for pupils. This teaching will be allied to the Key Stages and therefore appropriate to their level of understanding.

PROBLEMS

If the teacher has concerns about the progress of an asthmatic child, which they feel may be related to poor symptom control, they will be encouraged to discuss this with the parent and/or school nurse.

STORAGE

The storage of inhaler devices presents a number of problems for schools, but attempts will be made to address these problems. The following good practice guidelines will be followed:-

1. Inhalers will **NEVER** be locked away.
2. All children with asthma will have rapid access to their devices.
3. Devices will always be taken with the child when moving out of their classroom i.e. science rooms, school trips, P.E. classes and art & technology rooms.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.

Guidelines are issued along with this policy outlining the action to take in an emergency. A copy is kept with other school health policies and is available for all to read on request.