



Asthma Policy

September 2024

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 lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school 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
- ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- supports all pupils in understanding asthma
- ensures that key staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, doctors and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, parents/carers and the governing body.

This school recognises 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 education authority and pupils. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers of children are kept in a safe place in their classes and if competent, they can administer these themselves with supervision.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler that can stay in school. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. Parents sign a consent form for administration. • School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils, however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this if the child needs support, usually younger children. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy.

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 then complete and sign a medicine consent form. The school office staff review these forms on an annual basis. This information is kept in a file with an asthma register at the office. It is available to all school staff and an updated copy is given out to classes at the beginning of the school year, with updates as needed throughout the year. Parents/carers are also asked to update our information as soon as there are changes to their child's medicines or needs.

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.
- Any member of staff running a club is asked to familiarise themselves with the children in their club and their special/ medical needs.

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 or who the school first aiders are.

In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by First Aid Training.

Health Care Plans

- Some children may need health care plans in place to manage conditions and medication. If needed these will be planned and implemented with the lead of the school nurse. In this case a child may need to keep their asthma medication with them and their teachers at all times.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- tell the school if their child has asthma
- ensure the school has up-to-date asthma information about their child
- inform the school about and provide the medicines their child requires during school hours
- inform the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities such as school team sports
- tell the school about any changes to their child's medicines, what they take and how much
- inform the school of any changes to their child's asthma (for example, if their symptoms are getting worse or they are sleeping badly due to their asthma)
- ensure their child's reliever inhaler (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their name
- provide the school with a spare reliever inhaler labelled with their child's name
- ensure that their child's reliever inhaler and the spare is within its expiry date
- keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed
- ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor every six to 12 months

Useful contacts for information;

Asthma UK
Summit House
70 Wilson Street

Asthma UK Cymru
Eastgate House
35–34 Newport Road

**Asthma UK Northern
Ireland**
Peace House

Asthma UK Scotland
4 Queen Street
Edinburgh EH2 1JE

London EC2A 2DB
T 020 7786 4900
F 020 7256 6075

Cardiff CF24 0SB
wales@asthma.org.uk
ni@asthma.org.uk

224 Lisburn Road
Belfast BT9 6GE
info@asthma.org.uk

scotland@asthma.org.uk