



St James CofE Primary School

Asthma Policy

01 January 2020

Other policies linked to this policy :

1 : [First Aid Policy](#)

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Approved :

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.

2. This school encourages children 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 children with asthma are provided with training on asthma regularly, from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever is vital. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom in a box. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. **All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.**

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. All parents are then asked to fill in an 'Inhaler Registration Form'. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school staff. Forms are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

The school holds inhalers for each child and they are regularly checked for expiry dates by a member of staff.

Emergency Inhaler

St James Primary School holds two emergency inhalers (KS1 and KS2) as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in schools.'

The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.

The inhaler can be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken, or empty).

Protocol for use:

- arrangements for the supply, storage, care, and disposal of the inhaler and spacers in line with the schools policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions - stored in Main Office in KS2 and First Aid room for KS1.
- having a register of children in the school that have been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, a copy of which should be kept with the emergency inhaler
- having written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler included as part of a child's individual healthcare plan
- ensuring that the emergency inhaler is only used by children with asthma with written parental consent for its use
- appropriate support and training for staff in the use of the emergency inhaler in line with the schools wider policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- keeping a record of use of the emergency inhaler as required by Supporting pupils and informing parents or carers that their child has used the emergency inhaler
- having at least two volunteers responsible for ensuring the protocol is followed (Helen Savin as main contact)

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Staff will take children's inhalers down to the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a non-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

When a Child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks

The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

- 1.Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**
- 2.Stay calm and reassure the child.**
- 3.Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.**
- 4.Encourage the use of breathing exercises if possible**

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

The child's parents must be told about the attack.

Emergency procedure

Seek medical advice/call an ambulance urgently if:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

If a doctor is unobtainable, call an ambulance

- If for any reason the child stops breathing, an ambulance should be called immediately

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate.