

ASTHMA POLICY

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. Supply teachers and new staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. 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. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parents, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough, alternatively the reliever inhaler is kept in the classroom. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler to be kept in the School Office.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. 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 and to give consent for emergency inhaler use if required. This information is then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

Lyndon Green Junior School does now hold an emergency inhaler as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015. Parents can choose to give permission for use of an emergency inhaler by their child in an emergency. If consent is not given and the child does not have an inhaler in school parents will be contacted and the child will not be permitted to take part in PE, Forest School or any trips until an inhaler is brought into school or consent to use the emergency inhaler is given.

The school holds inhalers for each child, it is the parents responsibility to provide inhalers that are in-date and know when they will expire. Additionally they are checked termly for expiry dates by a member of staff.

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. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints over five minutes before the lesson. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma.

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in all areas of the National Curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

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

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure;

- 1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**
- 2. Stay clam and reassure the child.**
- 3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.**
- 4. Remain with the child and wait.**
- 5. If the reliever appears to have no effect after 5 minutes it can be given again. (Parents should be called at this stage)**

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

Call for an ambulance (from the office) if:

- 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 for any reason the child stops breathing

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

Appendices

Appendix 1: Annual records update

Appendix 2: Consent to use emergency reliever inhaler

Appendix 3: Notification of emergency reliever inhaler use

Appendix 4: Inhalers and medicine overview

**Appendix 5: Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools
March 2015**