

St Mary's Primary School



Asthma Policy

Introduction and background

St Mary's Primary 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. Our 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 authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. Staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training as part of their first aid qualification.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled age-appropriate reliever inhaler. These should be stored in the child's bag. For younger children these will be taken out in the morning and stored on teacher's desk. These will be returned to child's bag at the end of the school day.

Pupils will self-administer the medicine but will be supported if and when necessary.

Staff and Pupils should record use of inhalers, noting time, how many puffs and this should be signed by a member of staff.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form

Parents are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its medical register, which is available to all school staff. If a doctor has issued your child with an Asthma Action Plan, it is the parent's responsibility to send a copy of this into school. Parents are asked to update medical records as and when appropriate and on an annual basis. Updates are also required if a child's medicines or how much they take, changes during the year.

Each pupil will have a record sheet to record use of inhalers. This will be kept with the inhaler during the school day and returned home on a Friday so parents can monitor use.

PE, games and activities

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 and all teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise, to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. Pupil's inhaler should be labelled and kept at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

Out-of-hours sport

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack (see advice below)

Asthma attacks: action to take

The school follows the following procedure which is appropriately displayed in school:

- Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
- Stay calm and reassure the child
- Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened. If the child is in extreme distress, call an ambulance.

Emergency procedure/Severe attacks

A severe attack is defined as:

- The inhaler has no effect after five to ten minutes;
- The child is distressed or unable to talk;
- The child is becoming exhausted;
- The child shows signs of rapid deterioration;
- There is any doubt at all about the child's condition;

Call an ambulance!

Repeat the reliever inhaler every few minutes until help arrives. If a child is in severe distress, or experiences any loss of consciousness, call an ambulance immediately.

Our First Aider is fully trained in supporting Asthmatic children and responding to an Asthma attack.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Employers

Employers have a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and safety of their employees (all staff) and anyone else on the premises or taking part in school activities (this includes pupils). This responsibility extends to those staff and others leading activities taking place off site, such as visits, outings or field trips. Employers therefore have a responsibility to ensure that an appropriate asthma policy is in place
- Make sure the asthma policy is effectively monitored and regularly updated

Senior Leadership Team

Senior Leadership Team have a responsibility to:

- Plan the school's asthma policy in line with devolved local and national guidance
- Ensure the plan is put into action, with good communication of the policy to everyone
- Ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained
- Assess the training and development needs of staff and arrange for them to be met
- Ensure all supply teachers and new staff know the school asthma policy
- Regularly monitor the policy and how well it is working
- Report back to their employers and their local education authority about the school asthma policy

School staff

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- Understand the school asthma policy
 - Know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma
 - Know what to do in an asthma attack
 - Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
 - Tell parents if their child has had an asthma attack and if they used their reliever medicines
 - Ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
 - Be aware that a pupil may be tired because of night-time symptoms
 - Keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying
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Parents/carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school if their child has asthma
- Complete the medical forms
- Ensure the school has a copy of the Asthma Action Plan for their child if appropriate
- Inform the school about 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 hours 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 that they take to school with them is labelled with his/her name
- Ensure that their child's reliever inhaler is within its expiry date
- Keep their child at home if he/she is not well enough to attend school

Pupils

Pupils have a responsibility to:

- Treat other pupils with and without asthma equally
 - Let any pupil having an asthma attack take their blue inhaler and ensure a member of staff is called. Tell their parents, teacher or PE teacher when they are not feeling well
 - Treat asthma medicines with respect
 - Know how to gain access to their medicine in an emergency
 - Know how to take their own asthma medicines
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