



BRIGSTOCK LATHAM'S  
SCHOOL

# Asthma Policy

*Forward thinking and creative; valuing faith, tradition, community and achievement.*

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, PE, science, educational visits and out of hours 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
- Endeavours that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and know the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack.
- Ensure that inhalers are accessible at all times throughout the school day.

## **Asthma medicines**

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and be presented in the original packaging. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure the reliever inhaler is in date, also to inform the school if their child is likely to need their reliever more often at certain times of year e.g. if they have a cold or hayfever. Any changes to medicines (quantity/frequency) should be put in writing and given to the school office.

All children should be supplied with a spacer by their parent/carer for use in emergencies as per the recommendations set by WSCC Senior H&S Officer.

The school will ensure a spare spacer is purchased for emergency use. If used, this spacer should be given to the child and replaced as they should not be shared. Inhalers and spacers will be sent home periodically for parents to check and clean, but parents must ensure that they are returned for the beginning of the next school

day. Parents are welcome to collect them from the school for cleaning whenever they want to.

If a parent/carer has stated that their child requires an inhaler in school but does not supply an **in-date inhaler**, the school will take the following action:

- Phone the parent/carer and request that the inhaler is brought into school without delay.
- If the parent/carer fails to supply the inhaler as requested, write to the parent requesting the inhaler is brought in immediately and state that without the inhaler, in the event of an asthma attack, staff will be unable to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services. The letter will be filed with the child's asthma information form.

### **Record keeping**

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school, for the school's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are asked to complete a form at the start of each academic year when bringing in an inhaler. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the school about any change in their child's medication or treatment, in writing.

### **Exercise and activity - PE and games**

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent/carer.) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down.

### **When a child is falling behind in lessons**

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

### **School Environment**

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school will take into consideration, any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibility of exposure to these triggers. Occasionally we do have visiting animals and in Reception eggs are hatched and the chicks looked after onsite for a number of

weeks, if you think this may be a problem for your child; please ensure that you let us know. On school trips the teacher or another responsible adult will carry the inhaler for the child and a First Aider will always be available.

### **Out of School Hours**

A register of children attending any after school or out of school clubs will be taken and passed onto the relevant member in charge of the group. A First Aider is always on site for any out of school activities/clubs. Children who take part in after school activities will have access to their reliever inhaler at all times under the guidance of the member in charge of the group.

Reliever inhalers will be accessible but safely out of reach of other children.

## **Asthma Attacks – School’s Procedure**

A CHILD IS HAVING AN ASTHMA ATTACK IF:

- Their reliever inhaler (usually blue) isn’t helping, and/or
- They can’t talk or walk easily and/or
- They’re breathing hard and fast and/or
- They’re coughing or wheezing a lot and/or
- They may also complain of a tummy ache.

### **THE FOUR SIMPLE STEPS TO TAKE NOW**

1. Help them to sit up straight and stay calm
2. Help them take a puff of their reliever inhaler (usually blue) every 30-60 seconds, up to a maximum of 10 puffs
3. Call 999 for an ambulance and call their parent if:
  - a. their symptoms get worse while they’re using their inhaler
  - b. they don’t feel better after 10 puffs
  - c. you’re worried at any time, even if they haven’t yet taken 10 puffs.
4. While you wait for the ambulance, reassure the child. Repeat step 2 if the ambulance takes longer than 15 minutes.

Always call 999 immediately if you don’t have a reliever inhaler with you.

If the child does not go to hospital their parents will be informed that they have had an asthma attack and have responded to their reliever. They will be advised to make an urgent same day appointment with their GP.

Asthma UK Guideline

Asthma Expert Nurse on helpline 03002225800

### **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/carers must be told about the attack.

### **Inclusion**

In line with our Inclusion Policy, we will provide equal opportunities for all pupils whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment and background.

### **Access and Review of Policy**

The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school’s website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office. This policy will be reviewed on a two yearly cycle.

Policy Ratified – March 2020

Next Review – March 2022