College Road
Primary School

Asthma Policy

Reviewed April 2024

Written by: C Francis-McLeod

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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. We know that Asthma affects about 1 in 11 children and that there are about 2 children in every classroom in the UK with this chronic condition.

- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE

- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers (blue) 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 was written using guidance from the Department for Education and information from Asthma and Lung UK:

https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/conditions/asthma

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf

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. New staff are always made aware of this policy. All First Aiders are provided with asthma training on a regular basis. The School office has a list of school staff trained in this area and there are signs throughout the school. This training is provided by 'First Response First Aid' and also covers Severe Allergic Reactions and Epilepsy.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. The reliever inhalers are kept in their individual classroom in a designated first aid area marked with a first aid sign (green cross on white background) – this is easily accessible at all times of the school day.

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 our happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the school's insurance when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medication when needed, if they are able to.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a School Asthma Card Appendix 2, and return it to the school office. From this information, the school keeps its asthma register, which is displayed in the staff room, within each Class Information Red Folder, and kept in the office.

If any changes are made to a child's medication, it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school.

Our school holds an emergency inhaler and spacer as per the Department for Education 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015. This medication can only be administered to children on the Asthma Register. All our First Aid staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler, but all staff have had some training. The permission of parents of children with Asthma is sought for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available. This is part of the School Asthma Card (Appendix 2)

Parents will be informed by letter if their child has used the emergency inhaler (Appendix 2). Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by a named member of staff (A Blom – First aider).

Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom in a named wallet (containing their individual medication, asthma card and a record of when they have used their inhaler) in their class designated first aid area – green cross. All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All this information is found in their medication wallet along with their medication.

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. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. Records are kept every time a child uses their inhaler and this is kept in their asthma wallet.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. On occasion, the Foundation Class (Puffins) do take part in the egg/chick scheme. Teachers will be aware of any child who has a fur or feather allergy and will act appropriately. 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 break out area if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE 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 .

World Asthma Day is on the first Tuesday in May and will be included in our annual assembly program so all children learn about the risks, the treatment and how to recognise an asthma attack.

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 nursing team and special educational needs coordinator (Mrs Harvey) 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, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

1. Keep calm and reassure the child

2. Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward

3. Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler

4. Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them

5. Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of salbutamol via the spacer

6. If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs

7. Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better

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 informed about the attack.

Emergency procedure

If the pupil does not feel better or you are worried at any time before reaching 10 puffs from the inhaler, call 999 for an ambulance. If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes, give an additional 10 puffs as detailed above.

In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's parents or carers should always be contacted.

In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they should always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer is present.

Appendix 1

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use Form

Child's name: ……

Class: ……

Date: ……

Dear Parent/Carer

This letter is to formally notify you that …… has had problems with his/her breathing today.

This happened when ……

*They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given ……. Puffs.

*Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given ……. puffs.

*Delete as appropriate

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

_____ (staff signature)

_____ (staff name)

Appendix 2 – example of School Asthma Card – available from the school office

College Road Primary School
Asthma Card

Child's name ..... Date of birth .....

Address .....

Parent / Carer's Name

.....

Home phone no. ..... Mobile no. .....

Email .....

Doctor / Nurse's name .....

Phone .....

Review this card once a year and remember to update or exchange it for a new one if your child's treatment changes during the year.

Medicines and spacers should be clearly labelled with your child's name and kept in agreement with the school's asthma policy.

Reliever treatment when needed

For shortness of breath, sudden tightness in the chest, wheeze or cough, help or allow my child to take the medicines below. After treatment and as soon as they feel better they can return to normal activity.

Name of medicine .....

Dosage and method .....

Expiry Date .....

The school holds a central reliever inhaler and spacer for use in emergencies. I give permission for my child to use this.

Parent/Carer signature ..... Date .....

What signs can indicate that your child is having an asthma attack?

.....

-Does your child tell you when they need medicine? Yes / No

-Does your child need help taking their asthma medicine? Yes / No

-What are your child's triggers (things that make their asthma worse)?

Pollen Exercise Cold/Flu Stress Weather Air Pollution

Other (please specify) .....

-Does your child need to take any other asthma medicine while in the school's care? Yes / No

If yes please specify .....

Parent / Carer Signature ..... Date .....