

## **Asthma Policy October 2022**

- 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 school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. We encourage 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 and pupils. Staff are provided with asthma training on a regular basis. This training is provided by the 0-19 Service and also covers Severe Allergic Reactions, Epilepsy and Asthma.

### **Medication**

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their inhaler as soon as their parents, carer, doctor, nurse or class teacher agree they are mature enough to manage their own medication. Children should always tell their class teacher or first aider when they have had occasion to use their inhaler. Records are kept each time an inhaler is used. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in their individual classroom in a designated green first aid bag. 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 needed.

### **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. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School holds an emergency inhaler and spacer. This medication can only be administered to children who have asthma. Parents of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available (Appendix 1). Parents will be informed by School Gateway and the class teacher if their child has used the emergency inhaler. Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by a named member of staff (K Moss Scally – First aider). Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom in a named wallet containing their individual medication and asthma card, in their class designated first aid bag. 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. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in the first aid bag at the site of 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 via CPOMS.

## 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 has a no smoking policy. Teachers will be aware of any child who has a fur or feather allergy and will act appropriately if animals are on the school site. 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](http://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 nursing team 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.

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. 3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

## 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**

Consent Form: Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler  
Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler (delete as appropriate)
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which is kept at school.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, \*I do/ \*do not consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies. \*please mark as appropriate

Signed: ..... Date: .....

Name: (print) .....

Child's Name: ..... Class:.....

Parent's address and contact details:

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Telephone: .....

E-Mail: .....

Please return to the school office as soon as possible