



Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School

LEARNING, BELIEVING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER TO

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'

Matthew 5:16

ASTHMA POLICY

Our Christian vision shapes all that we do: Learning, Believing, and Achieving together to
"Let your Light Shine" *(Matthew 5-16)*

Guided by our Christian values of **Honesty, Love, Courage and Community**, we encourage all to flourish. Like a lamp set high to light its surroundings, everyone – whether timid or outgoing – is called to share their light for all to see. Our vision welcomes children and adults of all faiths and none, inspiring them to live, grow, and learn together, showing the world their unique light.

Introduction

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 lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school 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
- ensures 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 come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- understands that pupils with asthma may experience bullying and has procedures in place to prevent this (anti bullying policy)
- work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, employers of school staff, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Asthma UK.

This 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. This 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 education authority) and pupils. New staff are made aware of the policy. All staff that come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training. Training is updated regularly.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a name labelled reliever inhaler. The reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom in a place which is easily accessible to them.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an Emergency). School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.
- 2 emergency salbutamol inhalers are available in the office for use.

School policy guidelines

Record keeping

- At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents / carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form.
- From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. Parents/carers are also asked to update information if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.
- A child who suffers from severe asthma leading to regular hospitalisation, etc. may have a health care plan in place, agreed with the school, parents and school nurse.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

- 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.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE 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. It is agreed with teachers that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

School environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and to go outside if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

- If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher initially talks to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher then talks to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to the effects of their asthma.

Asthma attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom. Parents/carers

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
- report to parents/carers, pupils, school staff and local health authorities about the successes and failures of the policy

Head teacher

The Head teacher have a responsibility to:

- plan an individually tailored school asthma policy
- plan the school's asthma policy in line with devolved national guidance
- liaise between interested parties – school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, governors, the school health service and pupils
- 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
- remind parents in school newsletters to check expiry dates on inhalers.

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/carers if their child has had an asthma attack
- tell parents/carers if their child is using more reliever inhaler than they usually would
- ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
- ensure pupils who have been unwell catch up on missed school work
- be aware that a pupil may be tired because of night-time symptoms
- keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying
- liaise with parents/carers, the school nurse and special educational needs coordinator if a child is falling behind with their work because of their asthma.

During PE

Teachers have a responsibility to:

- understand asthma and the impact it can have on pupils. Pupils with asthma should not be forced to take part in activity if they feel unwell. They should also not be excluded from activities that they wish to take part in if their asthma is well controlled
- ensure pupils have their reliever inhaler with them during activity or exercise and are allowed to take it when needed
- if a pupil has asthma symptoms while exercising, allow them to stop, take their reliever inhaler and as soon as they feel better allow them to return to activity. (Most pupils with asthma should wait at least five minutes)
- remind pupils with asthma whose symptoms are triggered by exercise to use their reliever inhaler immediately before warming up
- ensure pupils with asthma always warm up and down thoroughly.

School nurses

School nurses have a responsibility to:

- help plan/update the school asthma policy
- if the school nurse has an asthma qualification it can be their responsibility to provide regular training for school staff in managing asthma
- provide information about where schools can get training if they are not able to provide specialist training themselves.

Pupils

Pupils have a responsibility to:

- treat other pupils with and without asthma equally
- let any pupil having an asthma attack take their reliever inhaler (usually blue) and ensure a member of staff is called
- tell their parents/carers, 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.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- tell the school if their child has asthma
- ensure the school has complete and up-to-date information for their child on the School Asthma Card
- 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 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 (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their name
- ensure that their child's reliever inhaler is within its expiry date
- keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- ensure their child catches up on any appropriate school work they have missed - sent home by staff on first day back
- ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor or asthma nurse (every six to 12 months)
- ensure their child has a written personal asthma action plan to help them manage their child's condition
- contribute to a written personal asthma action plan to help them manage their child's condition if there are regular severe attacks.