



Asthma Policy

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Policy Statement

This policy has been put together in collaboration with school, parents, School Nurses and volunteers to ensure that the individual needs of students have been met when a child has asthma.

This policy:

- Recognises the needs of students with asthma
- Ensures that students with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life, including Physical Education (PE), visits, outings or field trips
- Ensures staff are trained in how to deal with an asthma attack

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many students at the school. The school positively welcomes all students with asthma. This school encourages students 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, where possible, students.

Guidance

In order to achieve the above the following guidance is recommended:

- All staff are given basic awareness training about asthma and the use of inhalers
- All staff have a clear understanding of procedures to follow when a student has an asthma attack
- Reliever inhalers for pupils are accessible at all times, preferably students should carry their own inhalers with a spare inhaler kept by school
- The school maintains a register of students with asthma and each individual student with asthma has a Care Plan available in school

Management of Asthma in Schools

Early administration of the correct reliever treatment will cause the majority of attacks to be completely resolved.

As immediate access is vital to early administration of the inhaler, the student should either carry their own. A spare inhaler for each student is stored in the Medical Room.

For each student with asthma the school nursing team provides a Care Plan with information of what to do in the event of an attack. For each student two inhalers should be sent into school – one for the student to keep near them and one as a back-up. A consent form will be sent home for the parent to sign.

Each inhaler must be sent into school in the original packaging from the GP with a prescription label so that it can be identified as belonging to a specific student. A member of the Care Team has specific responsibility for the organisation of inhalers, including checking whether they are in date.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), but should remind students of the need to use the inhaler. All staff have received asthma awareness training annually and so are able to either administer inhalers or support students to administer their own.

All school staff will let students take their own inhalers when necessary. They will be pro-active in ensuring that students carry an inhaler with them to activities such as P.E.

In the event of an asthma attack:

- Ensure that the reliever is taken immediately. Whenever possible allow medication to be taken where the attack occurred
- Stay calm and reassure the student, stay with them until the attack is resolved
- Help the student to breathe by encouraging them to breathe as slowly and deeply as possible
- After the attack, and as soon as they feel better, they can return to normal school activities
- The student's parent/carer should be informed of the attack

In all emergencies staff should follow the traffic light system (Appendix 1). There is a list of First Aiders available in every room.

Implementing the Policy

- All members of staff are responsible for implementing the policy, along with all members of staff
- Annual Asthma awareness training for all school staff is carried out by the School Health team
- School has compiled a register of students with asthma – on display in the Care and Therapy Room and distributed to class teachers by the Care Team
- Parents/carers are encouraged to work with school and School Nursing teams to keep them informed of changes in the self-management plan. The asthma policy is available on the school website

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a new student joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions.

If they have asthma the nursing team will provide a Care Plan for that child.

Parents/carers will be asked to ensure that their child's inhaler is:

- Correctly labelled
- In good working order
- In-date
- Cleaned at the end of each term
- If needed, two spacers are provided by the family (one for the pupil and a spare)

It is the responsibility of the school to keep parents/carers up to date on any untoward occurrences with the student's treatment and record this for future reference. i.e student has had an attack or is asking for inhaler more often. This is done by phone call home and/or diary.

If a member of staff assists a student to use the inhaler they must sign to register that they have administered it.

Exercise and Activity

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all young people. All teachers know which students in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which

students have asthma from the school's asthma register; this list is displayed in the Care and Therapy Room.

Students with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Staff will remind those 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. Students will take their inhalers to their PE lessons. If a student needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Visits, Outings or School Trips

When students are taken out on school trips it is the responsibility of school staff to ensure that inhalers and Care Plans are taken along for each student with asthma. The same principles are used as for exercise where outdoors activities are involved.

A mobile phone should always be available for any emergency situations.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Administration of Medicines Policy

School Visits system

Appendix 1 PRINT IN COLOUR AND LAMINATE AND PLACE IN APPROPRIATE PLACES

<p>Life Threatening</p>	<p>If your child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Drowsy •Has severe wheeze •Is unable to speak in sentences •Is unable to respond with loss in consciousness 	<p>Ring 999 – you need help immediately. If you have a blue inhaler use it now, 1 puff per minute via spacer until the ambulance arrives</p>
<p>Severe</p>	<p>If your child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Frightened •Breathless, with heaving of the chest •Unable to complete a sentence/take fluids and is getting tired 	<p>Ring 999 – you need help immediately If you have a blue inhaler use it now, 1 puff per minute via spacer until the ambulance arrives.</p>
<p>Moderate</p>	<p>If your child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wheezing and breathless and not responding to usual reliever treatment 	<p>Immediately contact your GP to make an appointment for your child to be seen that day face to face or contact West Yorkshire Urgent Care on 0845 605 99 99 for 24 hour advice if you are unable to contact your GP.</p>
<p>Mild</p>	<p>If your child is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Requiring to use their reliever regularly throughout the day for cough or wheeze but is not breathing quickly and is able to continue day to day activities. 	<p>Phone your GP to make an appointment to be seen the next day. Alternatively, phone West Yorkshire Urgent Care on 0845 605 99 99 for 24 hour advice if you are unable to contact your GP.</p>