

# Asthma Policy

	Name of School	Terrington St Clement Community School
	Policy review Date	July 2022
	Date of next Review	July 2025
	Who reviewed this policy?	Amanda Conner

## **Background**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, Asthma UK, the school health service and staff. 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. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training as part of our First Aid Training. Training is updated regularly.

## **Asthma medicines**

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of all children are kept in the classroom
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler. The class teacher will hold in the classroom. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that medication is in date.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at our school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to
- The school has an emergency salbutamol inhaler to be used by children, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. The inhaler can be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (e.g. because it is broken or empty). If this is used a letter will be sent home to the parents/carers informing them that the emergency salbutamol inhaler was used.

## **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.
- A list of medical conditions, including asthma is kept centrally and is displayed on the rear of the asthma pump location notice on the rear of each class door. A précis of those with asthma given to MDA's.
- A register is kept of all children in the school that have been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, a copy of which is kept with the emergency inhaler.

Appropriate staff have been trained in the use of the emergency inhaler in line with the schools wider policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions.

## **Storage and care of the emergency inhaler**

The office staff are responsible for the safe storage and maintenance of the emergency inhaler kit.

## **Exercise and activity – PE and games**

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils.

- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. 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. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

### **Out-of-hours sport**

- There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in afterschool clubs. Parents are responsible for ensuring that your child has an asthma pump in their school bag to take with them to out-of-hours clubs onsite.

### **School environment**

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. When any animals are brought onto school premises, class teachers are aware of those with asthma. 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 go and sit in the school office 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 will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the head/ teacher will then talk to the school nurse about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma. 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 medical room.

### **Children who can use an emergency inhaler**

The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children:

- Who have been diagnosed with asthma, and prescribed a reliever inhaler,
- OR who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler;
- AND for whom written parental consent for the use of the emergency inhaler has been given.

This information will be recorded in a child's individual healthcare plan.

**A child may be prescribed an inhaler for their asthma which contains an alternative reliever medication to salbutamol (such as terbutaline). The salbutamol inhaler should still be used by these children if their own inhaler is not accessible – it will still help to relieve their asthma and could save their life.**