

Midfield Primary School



POLICY DOCUMENT

Children with Asthma

	Name	Date
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The School Asthma Policy

Aims

To ensure that children with asthma:

- are healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution to the life of the school

ASTHMA POLICY

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
- 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 policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service and parents. It takes into account the physical and emotional wellbeing of the child.

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. New staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. Training is sourced from the School Nurse team and key members of staff hold current and relevant First Aid Certificates (Advanced First Aid; Paediatric First Aid or First Aid in the Workplace)

Medication

Immediate access to reliever is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parents, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough.

The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. It is parents responsibility to replace this when required.

The spare inhaler will be stored in the office. 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 they need to.**

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma and completes a data sheet which they complete with reference to their child's needs. The school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school staff. Data sheets are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

The school will source an Emergency inhaler. Parents will sign to give consent for this to be administered in an emergency situation.

The school holds inhalers for each child and they are regularly checked for expiry dates by a member of staff.

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. The inhalers will be available throughout the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

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 non-smoking policy and children's access to allergens such as fur or feather is limited by their own needs or those of their peers. The school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma.

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 nurse 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. The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

- 1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**
- 2. Stay calm and reassure the child.**
- 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 told about the attack.

Emergency procedure

Call an ambulance if:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
 - The child becomes pale, cold and clammy, has blue lips or nails
 - The child is struggling to breathe and breathing is noisy, or increasingly wheezy
 - The child is either distressed or unable to talk
 - The child is getting exhausted
 - You have any doubts at all about the child's condition
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- Ensure that the precise information is given to the 999 call centre about the name and age of the child, medication given and school, including information on the address and how to access the site directly. If possible send a staff member to guide the ambulance.
 - Listen to information or instructions passed by the call centre and follow these
 - Time when medication is given and record changes in condition if possible.

Parents/guardians should be informed as a matter of urgency.

If a child's breathing stops –

- **This is an Emergency situation and First Aiders should assess for breathing and pulse before commencing CPR. Staff should record time of starting chest compressions**
- **This should continue until staff are relieved by the ambulance crew.**

Parents/guardians should be informed as a matter of urgency.

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate