



Asthma Policy

Policy Updated: September 2024

Approved by Governors: September 2024

Policy Review Date: September 2026

ASTHMA POLICY

Background

This policy has been written within the guidelines and advice given by the Department for Education, Asthma UK and the local education authority.

Hilderthorpe Primary 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. The school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

School Environment

Hilderthorpe Primary School does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. In line with the local authority regulations the school has a no smoking policy. As far as is possible the school does not use chemicals in science/art lessons which could be a potential trigger for pupils with asthma.

The school ensures that staff (including supply staff) are aware of pupils who suffer with asthma and are aware of what to do should a child have an asthma attack.

Staff are aware of the potential social problems which pupils with asthma may experience and use this knowledge, alongside the school's anti-bullying policy, to help prevent and deal with any such problems. Opportunities such as PSHE are used to help raise awareness of medical conditions and to help promote a positive environment.

Roles & Responsibilities

The Headteacher has a responsibility to

- ensure an appropriate asthma policy is in place
- ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained
- assess the training needs of staff and arrange for them to be met
- ensure all supply teachers and new staff are aware of the asthma policy
- monitor the policy and how well it is working
- delegate a member of staff to check expiry dates of reliever inhalers and maintain an asthma register

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 to have immediate access to their inhaler
- inform parents if their child has had an asthma attack/used their inhaler
- ensure children have their inhalers on school trips
- ensure children who have been unwell and are falling behind receive relevant interventions
- keep an eye out for pupils with asthma who may be experiencing bullying

Parents/Carers have a responsibility to:

- inform the school if their child has asthma or the use of an inhaler for wheezy chest
- provide the school with an inhaler. This should be labelled with their name and be within its expiry date
- complete the school's Emergency Asthma Information Form
- inform the school if there are any changes to their child's medication
- keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- ensure their child catches up on any work they have missed
- ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor or asthma nurse and that their child has a written personal asthma action plan to help them manage their child's condition

Asthma Attacks

Staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

Symptoms of an asthma attack and how to treat are kept in the classroom (Appendix A)

Asthma Medication

Immediate access to reliever medication is essential. The reliever inhalers, together with spacers, are kept in the classrooms and emergency inhalers and spacers are kept in the First Aid cabinet in the school office.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and must be in date.

School staff are not required to administer the inhalers to children (except in an emergency), however, many of the staff 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.

The emergency inhalers are taken out with the office staff in the case of fire/fire drills.

An emergency inhaler is taken on visits out of school.

Record Keeping

When a child has been diagnosed with asthma it is the parent/carer's responsibility to inform the school. An Asthma Emergency Information form is then completed by the parent/carer, which gives details of the medication and known triggers. This form is reviewed annually. Parents/carers are also asked to inform the school if circumstances change.

Parent/carers will also be requested to give consent for the school's emergency inhaler to be used if necessary.

A central Asthma Register is kept in the Asthma file located in the school office and each class holds a list of children with asthma.

An asthma medication record is held in each class and is completed whenever a child uses their inhaler. Parents are informed if their child has used their inhaler. Termly checks are made on the expiry dates of the inhalers

Exercise & Activity

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. If a child's asthma is triggered by exercise then their inhaler should be available should they need it.

Off-site Activities & After School Clubs

No child with asthma should be excluded from any activity taking place away from school premises or from after school clubs. Their inhaler should be taken with them on school trips and as in school, a record should be kept if it is used.

Staff running the after school clubs are aware of any children with asthma and follow the same procedures that apply during the school day.

Concerns re Progress

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially speak with the parent/carer to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind in lessons.

Staff are aware that some children with asthma may also have additional special educational needs and will liaise with the SEN Co-ordinator.

Staff Training

When staff renew their first aid training asthma is included within this. A specialist nurse will also come into school if required.

Nurture School

We are a Nurture School and hold the Nurture School's Award. As such, we expect all stake holders and visitors to uphold the Nurture Principles. This includes the following:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally.
- The classroom offers a safe base.
- Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem.
- Language is understood as a vital means of communication.
- All behaviour is communication.
- Transitions are significant in the lives of children.

HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK

The signs of an asthma attack are

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)
- Nasal flaring
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- May try to tell you that their chest ‘feels tight’ (younger children may express this as tummy ache)

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD

- Appears exhausted
- Has a blue/white tinge around lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- Keep calm and reassure the child
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Use the child's own inhaler. If not available, use the emergency inhaler
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them
- Immediately help the child to take 2 separate puffs of Salbutamol via the spacer
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give 2 puffs at a time every 2 minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better.
- If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE
- If an ambulance does not arrive within 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way