

# Asthma Policy

**Committee Responsible for Policy:** Full Governing Body

**Policy written by:** Miss Sarah Baxter



**Policy shared with staff:** January 2018

**Policy confirmed by the Governing Body of Linchfield Community Primary School on:**

**Date:** March 2018

**Signature:** Full Governing Body

**Policy to be reviewed :** Every Year

## Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

Linchfield Community 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. 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 are provided with training delivered by the asthma nurse. Training is updated once a year.

## 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 younger children are kept in the classroom in clear, labelled box. **Children who have a prescribed asthma inhaler must have access to them at all times. Inhalers must not be locked away.**
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler. All inhalers (not just the outer box) must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this 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 allow pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

## Emergency Inhalers

- The Department of Health issued guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school. All schools are now able to buy salbutamol inhalers for emergency use in the treatment of pupils with asthma.
- The school inhaler can be used if a student's prescribed inhaler is not available.
- The Department of Health guidance says 'The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication'.

## 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. They are also asked to sign permission for the school emergency inhaler to be administered in the event of their child's inhaler being unavailable.

- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma Card to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff.
- School Asthma Cards are then sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.

### **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 and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.
- 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 PE staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- Class Teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

### **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 after school clubs.
- PE teachers, classroom teachers and out-of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

### **Educational Visits**

A risk assessment is undertaken before any educational visit. The school Educational Visits Coordinator is Mr Scott Reeve

Children with asthma are identified on the risk assessment and their inhalers are available to them at all times during the trip.

The emergency inhaler is taken on all trips, in addition to the child's own inhaler.

## **School Environment**

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma.
- The school does keep furry animals in some classes.
- Occasionally, animals may be brought in to school as part of an enrichment activity. Parents are advised to inform the school of their child's triggers so that we may consider this when planning activities.
- 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.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site.

## **Making the School Asthma-Friendly**

The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma. Asthma can be included in the National Curriculum Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

## **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 teacher will then talk to the school nurse and Special Educational Needs Coordinator about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have Special Educational Needs due to 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 (see page 2 and 3 of *Asthma Awareness for School Staff*).