



Eastbrook 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 a reliever inhaler is vital, keep records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- requests information from all parents annually asking to be kept up to date concerning asthmatic conditions that may have arisen
- ensures that the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- asks parents to leave a spare inhaler within the main school office – the inhaler should be clearly labeled with the child's name
- parents to inform the school when inhalers are out of date
- ensure that all staff are provided with training regarding asthma attacks once per year. (Training updated 5th September 2006)
- displays in each classroom details of what to do in the event of an asthmatic attack
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, the school nurse and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully
- ensure that staff are aware that some substances in certain lessons could trigger an attack – this is particularly the case in Science practicals, Resistant materials and PE where deodorants could be used

Procedures relating to pupils with asthma

1. Staff will encourage pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear expectation that they will be included in the full life of the school wherever possible, including PE and sports activities.
2. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma. Training will be updated once a year.

Medication

3. Immediate access to inhalers is vital. All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.
4. Children are encouraged to carry their inhaler. Parents/carers are asked to furnish the school with a spare inhaler to be kept in the main school office. This inhaler should be clearly marked, by the parent, with the child's name. Parents are asked at least once each year to keep the School informed regarding any changes in the pupil's condition or medication.
5. School staff are not required to administer medication to pupils except in an emergency. Under such circumstances school staff are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy.

Record Keeping

6. At the beginning of each school year, or when a pupil joins the school, parents/carers of children with asthma are given a National Asthma Campaign school card to give to their child's GP or asthma nurse to complete and return to school.
7. The school will keep an asthma register based on the information received and the register will be available to all school staff.
8. Cards and Health Care Plans are sent to parents/carers on an annual basis for them to update.
9. If medication changes in between times, parents/carers are asked to inform the school.

PE

10. Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. PE teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE.
11. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to use their inhaler before the lesson and complete a warm up of a couple of sprints over five minutes before the lesson proper begins.
12. Each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson and be available if required.

The School Environment

13. The school does all that it can to ensure the environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy.

14. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in Science and Art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Pupils will be encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the First Aid room if particular fumes cause a problem.
15. The School ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Science, Design Technology, Geography, History and PE subjects within the National Curriculum.
16. When a pupil is falling behind in lessons because of asthma
If a pupil is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind as a result, the form teacher will initially talk to parents/ carers. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the SENCO about the situation. With the parents consent the school nurse will contact the parent/carer to give support and advice about asthma.
16. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
17. The School follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in every classroom:

What to do if a pupil has an asthma attack

- Keep calm
- Encourage the pupil to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- Make sure the pupil takes two puffs of reliever inhaler (usually blue) immediately
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened
- Reassure the pupil

If there is no immediate improvement

Continue to make sure the pupil takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve.

Emergency procedure.

CALL AN AMBULANCE IF:-

- the pupil's symptoms do not improve in five to ten minutes
- the pupil is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- the pupil's lips are blue
- you are in doubt

Ensure the pupil takes one puff of their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance arrives.