



Drapers' Academy

# Asthma Policy

## Version 1

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## Policy statement

This policy has been written with advice from Asthma UK and the Department for Children, Schools and Families in addition to advice from healthcare and education professionals. **Department of CS&Families is now the DFE!**

This school recognises that asthma and recurrent wheezing are important conditions affecting increasing numbers of school age children. This school welcomes pupils with asthma.

This school encourages all children to achieve their full potential in all aspects of life by having a clear policy and procedures that are understood by school staff, parents, carers and by pupils.

All staff who have contact with these children are given the opportunity to receive training. Updates for **such** training are offered at regular intervals.

## Indemnity

School staff are not required to administer asthma medication to pupils except in an emergency situation (Department of Health guidance: Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/416468/emergency\\_inhalers\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf)

However, staff should be willing to assist with administering the inhaler at a set time when it has been recommended by an appropriate healthcare professional. School staff who agree to administer asthma medication are insured by relevant authorities when acting in agreement with this policy.

All school staff will allow pupils **immediate** access to their own asthma medication when they need it.

## What is Asthma?

Asthma is a common condition which affects the airways in the lungs. Symptoms occur in response to exposure to a trigger e.g. pollen, dust, smoke, exercise etc.

These symptoms include cough, wheeze, chest tightness and breathlessness. Symptoms are usually easily reversible by use of a reliever inhaler but all staff must be aware that sufferers may experience an acute episode, which will require rapid medical or hospital treatment.

## **Medication**

Only reliever inhalers should be kept in school. Usually these are blue in colour. **Immediate access to reliever inhaler is vital.** Children aged 7 years and over who are considered sufficiently mature are encouraged to carry their own inhaler with them.

Pupils will carry their own inhalers with them at all times. Good practice indicates that a spare inhaler is kept in school office for use if the original runs out or is lost. Children, who are able to identify the need to use their medication, should be allowed to do so, as and when they feel it is necessary.

## **Record Keeping**

When a child with asthma joins this school, parents/carers will be asked to complete a form, giving details of the condition and the treatment required. Information from this form will be used to compile an "Asthma Register" which is available for all school staff. This register will be updated at least annually or more frequently if required using the information supplied by the parent/carer

## **Physical Education**

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life and important for health and well-being and children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully. Certain types of exercise are potent triggers for asthma e.g. cross country running and field activities. Any child who knows that an activity will induce symptoms will be encouraged to use their reliever inhaler prior to exercise, will carry it with them and will be encouraged to warm up prior to participating and cool down after. The inhaler must be readily available to the pupil throughout the P.E lesson/sports activity.

## **School Trips/Residential Visits**

No child will be denied the opportunity to take part in school trips/residential visits because of asthma, unless so advised by their GP or consultant. The child's reliever inhaler will be readily available to them throughout the trip, being carried by themselves. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to provide written information about all asthma medication required by their child for the duration of the trip. Parents must be responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of medication is provided. Group leaders will have appropriate contact numbers with them.

**N.B. In the unlikely event of another pupil using someone else's blue inhaler there is little chance of harm. The drug in reliever inhalers is very safe and overdose is very unlikely.**

In an emergency, where a child, who is a known asthmatic and on the school asthma register is experiencing significant symptoms and has not got their own blue inhaler with them or it is found to be empty, broken or out of date, it is acceptable to use the schools emergency inhaler and spacer. Emergency inhalers will be kept in the school office, where staff can access one with ease and will be used as per the asthma flow chart. This should then be recorded in the child's records and parent/carer informed. Cleaning of the emergency inhaler and spacer following use, the spacer should be cleaned by either: a). Putting it into a dishwasher if available and leaving it to dry thoroughly before putting it away or b) Washing it thoroughly in hot soapy water and leaving it to air dry thoroughly before putting away. The casing of the inhaler can also be cleaned by removing the aerosol from the casing, wash and dry the casing and lid thoroughly before replacing the aerosol. Spray to check the inhaler is working effectively and replace the lid.

## **Responsibilities**

Parents/Carers have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school that their child has asthma.
- Ensure the school has complete and up to date information regarding their child's condition.
- Inform the school about the medicines their child requires during school hours.
- Inform the school of any medicines their child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and/or other out of school activities.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's medication
- Inform the school if their child is or has been unwell which may affect the symptoms e.g. symptoms worsening or sleep disturbances due to symptoms.
- Ensure their child's inhaler (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their child's name.
- Provide the school with a spare inhaler (and spacer where relevant) labelled with their child's name.
- Regularly check the inhalers kept in school to ensure there is an adequate amount of medicine available and that it is in date.

All school staff (teaching and support 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.

Further Information can be obtained from: Asthma UK [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

