



St Paul's CE Primary School

Asthma Policy and Guidelines 2017

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| LAST REVIEW: | Dec 2013 |
| COMMITTEE: | Health, Safety and Premises |
| KEY REVIEWERS: | Governors |
| REVIEW FREQUENCY: | 3 Years |
| NEXT REVIEW: | Dec 2019 |
| NON-STATUTORY | |

Introduction

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting some children in our school.

This policy is aimed at an audience of parents and staff, seeking to:

- Offer practical advice about the problems which asthmatic children face in school
- Make clear the importance for the school to be well prepared to assist in the management and control of asthma in children
- Underline parental obligations in letting the school know if a child has asthma and the relative seriousness of their child's case

A Positive Approach

This School:

- Welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Will encourage and help children with asthma to participate fully in all aspects of school life
- Recognises that immediate access to inhalers is essential
- Will do all it can to make sure that the school environment is favorable to children with asthma
- Has clear understanding of what to do in the event of a child having an asthma attack
- Will ensure that staff are made aware of this Asthma Policy
- Will offer training as appropriate

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
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent a School Asthma Card to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return this card to 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 change, or the dosage/frequency changes during the year

Asthma Medicines

- We recognise that access to reliever medication is essential. With this in mind, reliever inhalers are kept in a dedicated box in each classroom, which accompanies the class when leaving the classroom for a significant period of time
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with two labeled reliever inhalers (and spacer where necessary) in named, resealable bags. The school will hold one centrally in case the pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labeled by the parent/carer with the child's name and class
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils but all school staff will let pupils take their own asthma medicines when they need to. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the Local Authority when acting in agreement with this policy
- Reply slips for children to participate in after school activities and residential visits will have a space for parents to record whether or not their child has asthma
- Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that children always have an inhaler with them in school, for clubs and other activities or events (e.g. discos) as well as for use during the school day

The Asthma Attack

The following guidelines will be used if a known asthmatic pupil becomes breathless, wheezy or coughs continually.

1. Keep calm. It's treatable
2. Pupils to sit in a position they find comfortable. Lying down is not necessary
3. Allow pupil to take their usual reliever, giving help, if necessary. The reliever inhaler can be repeated after 5 minutes if no improvement
4. If there is no relief of symptoms after second dose ring parents
5. If parent cannot be contacted, call family doctor

6. In severe cases, (relief inhaler has no effect at all) call an ambulance to take the pupil to nearest hospital casualty department. Inform parents

In the case of a suspected first attack the pupil should be kept calm, an ambulance should be called and parents informed.

PE, Games, After School Clubs and other events

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. The school ensures that all adults teaching PE are aware of which children have asthma
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE lessons whether inside or outdoors
- Classes taking the bag of asthma medication with them to PE lessons
- Children attending after school clubs (e.g. football) or other events such as discos will take their reliever inhalers with them and return them to the class bag the following day
- Sports coaches from outside are responsible for ensuring that they are able to deal with an asthma crisis
- After school clubs run by outside providers must ensure that they are aware of which children in their care have problems with asthma

Residential Stays/School Visits

Risk assessments are carried out prior to any visits. Where there is the potential of children coming into contact with animals (e.g. farm visits) parents/carers will be made aware of this in the "visit" letter. They should contact school if any extra precautions need to be taken or, indeed if they would prefer their child not to take part in the visit.

The School Environment

- The school has a non-smoking policy throughout the building and grounds both within and outside normal school hours
- The school does not keep live furry or feathery animals, and as far as possible does not use chemicals in Science or Art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma

Conclusion and Summary

Asthma is a very common illness in children and it is important that it is recognised and that it receives optimum treatment.

Modern medical practice is designed to allow a normal quality of life which means taking part in all normal school activities.

Because of the make up of the school day staff can become aware of possible asthma symptoms, which may otherwise go unrecognised. Should this arise we will undertake to inform parents/carers in order that they may seek professional advice.