



Amington Heath Primary and Nursery

School Asthma Policy –

Use of Inhalers in School.

Policy approved February 2021

Last review: May 2023

Next review: May 2024

ASTHMA POLICY

Amington Heath Primary School and Nursery recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. Our school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life.

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many children and welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- We have an identified asthma lead Ms Edwards - who ensures the oversight and coordination of our Asthma Policy. We work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully
 - Ensure that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
 - Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
 - Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
 - Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
 - Ensures that other children understand asthma
 - Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. This school encourages children 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.

Access to Inhalers

- Individual pupils' inhalers are kept in a named box in their classrooms.
- Children are allowed access to their inhalers at any time in the school day, should they feel the need to use it.
- Inhalers should accompany them when taking part in after school clubs, offsite activities, or residential trips.
- Inhalers should be taken outside along with the register for fire drills.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Each class will have an allocated First Aid/Asthma Box with individual inhalers and Asthma care plans inside. This box should be taken wherever the class is e.g. Forest School or to Music lessons. 3 Emergency kits are kept on the school site and are located in the Office, in the Mobile classrooms and in our EYFS setting. Both the emergency kits and class boxes are regularly monitored.

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. The inhaler can be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken, or empty)

Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled age-appropriate reliever inhaler. Emergency inhalers will be administered to your child if their own inhaler runs out, is lost or forgotten. If you do not want this to happen, then please confirm this in writing.

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 let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their enrolment form. All parents of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma Action Plan to complete. Parents are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. Asthma Action Plans are then sent to parents of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents are also asked to update the Asthma Action Plan if their child's medicines or how much they take, changes during the year.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints over five minutes before the lesson. Each child's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

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.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definite no-smoking policy. 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.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

When a Child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the School Nurse and Special Educational Needs Coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

The child's parents must be told about the attack.

Emergency procedure- Severe attacks

A severe attack is defined as:

- The inhaler has no effect after five to ten minutes;
- The child is distressed or unable to talk;
- The child is becoming exhausted;
- The child shows signs of rapid deterioration;
- There is any doubt at all about the child's condition;

Call an ambulance!

Repeat the reliever inhaler every few minutes until help arrives.

If a child is in severe distress, or experiences any loss of consciousness, call an ambulance immediately

Senior Leadership Team

Senior Leadership Team have a responsibility to:

- Plan an individually tailored school asthma policy with the help of school staff, school nurses, local education authority advice and the support of their employers
- Plan the school's asthma policy in line with devolved national guidance
- Liaise between interested parties – school staff, school nurses, parents, governors, the school health service and pupils
- Ensure the plan is put into action, with good communication of the policy to everyone
- Ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained and reviewed
- Assess training and development needs of ALL staff and arrange for them to be met
- Ensure all supply teachers and new staff know the school asthma policy
- Regularly monitor the policy and how well it is working
- Identify an Asthma Lead staff member to ensure the Asthma Policy is upheld e.g. check the expiry date of spare reliever inhalers and maintain the school asthma register
- Report back to their employers and their local education authority about the school asthma policy

School staff

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- Attend annual training about asthma
- 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 with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
- Tell parents if their child has had an asthma attack and if they used their reliever medicines
- Ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
- Ensure pupils who have been unwell catch up on missed school work
- Be aware that a pupil may be tired because of night-time symptoms
- Keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying
- Liaise with parents and Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENDCO) or another member of staff if a child is falling behind with their work because of their asthma.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school if their child has asthma
- Ensure the school has a completed and up-to-date Asthma Action Plan for their child
- Inform the school about the medicines their child requires during school hours
- Inform the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out of school hours activities such as school team sports
- Tell the school about any changes to their child's medicines, what they take and how much
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's asthma (for example, if their symptoms are getting worse or they are sleeping badly due to their asthma)
- Provide the school with a spare reliever inhaler (and spacer where relevant) labelled with their child's name
- Ensure their child's reliever inhaler that they take to school with them is labelled with his/her name
- Ensure that their child's reliever inhaler and the spare is within its expiry date
- Keep their child at home if he/she is not well enough to attend school
- Ensure their child catches up on school work missed if their child is unwell