

# **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**



*Life in all its fullness*

## **Asthma Policy September 2023**

- A happy, healthy and safe place to learn how to look after our bodies and minds

# **ST JOHN THE BAPTIST C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **ASTHMA POLICY**

### **The School:**

- Recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many children and supports all pupils with asthma.
- We aim to ensure that all children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE.
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers/and all other types of 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 all staff who encounter children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Will work in partnership with all involved parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.
- Can only administer inhalers if they are clearly labelled with the child's name. If for any reason an inhaler is no longer labelled it cannot be administered. Parents must be informed immediately so a replacement can be sent to school.
- Unlabelled inhalers should be disposed of by the school.

### **Parents and Carers**

- Must inform the school office if their child suffers with asthma and requires an inhaler.
- Must complete an Inhaler Agreement form, giving details of their child's requirements.
- If a spacer is used, it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that this is cleaned/washed regularly.
- Parents are responsible for checking inhalers are in date and must keep their own records of when the inhaler needs replacing.

### **Access to Inhalers**

1. Inhalers must be kept securely in the school office. All staff must have access to them.
2. We recommend that all children who have asthma keep one reliever inhaler/required inhaler labelled at school for easy access if it is required.
3. All staff need to be aware of where the inhalers are stored for easy access at break times, at lunch times and during PE lessons.
4. The staff member who takes children offsite must check that inhalers are taken with the child/group and that access to them is available if required.
5. Parents must inform the school if a child is likely to need their inhaler during PE. During PE lessons, inhalers should remain in the school office unless an individual care plan is in place. Should an inhaler be needed during a PE lesson a runner will inform another member of staff (office staff if available) who will take the inhaler to the individual.
6. Parents are responsible for replacing empty, damaged or lost inhalers.

### **Administering Inhalers**

1. Medical records for each class/whole school are held in the school office. Office staff check these records whenever children are taken offsite to ensure the member of staff in charge has access to medicines/inhalers when required. It is the responsibility of the member of staff in charge to inform the school office when going off site. On return the medicines/inhalers are checked back in to individual class boxes for ease of access.
2. In an emergency all staff have access to inhalers
3. Once the labelled inhaler is out of date, damaged or dirty, it must be returned to parents/carers for safe disposal and a replacement to be provided.

### **Staff Awareness**

1. Advice and training will be given by the school nurse when required.
2. A list of asthma sufferers will be kept in the contact file in the office.
3. Parents must ensure they have notified school if their child is an asthma sufferer by requesting and updating the school emergency contact form for their child.

## **Treatment of an Asthma Attack**

There are two types of treatment:

1. Relievers – a treatment that provides relief within approximately five minutes by opening up the airways. This is usually a blue inhaler and can be given in line with parental instructions.
2. Preventative – these are taken regularly to decrease the sensitivity of air passages. These inhalers are usually brown and should not be used during an asthma attack and, therefore, are not needed to be brought to school. They may be required for school residential trips.

## **What to do if a child has an asthma attack**

1. Signs and symptoms:
  - Difficulty with breathing out
  - Wheezing
  - Speaking with difficulty
  - Distress and anxiety
  - Blueness of skin

2. Treatment and action:

Stay calm and reassure the child – attacks can be frightening so stay calm, the child will probably have been through it before. Listen carefully to what the child is saying. It is very comforting to have a hand to hold but do not put your arm around the child's shoulder as this is very restrictive.

Ensure that the reliever medicine (blue) is taken – this should open up the narrowed airways.

Help the child to breath – encourage the child to breath slowly and deeply. Most children find it easier to sit upright or leaning forward slightly resting on a table. Lying flat on the back is not recommended.

Ensure a good supply of fresh air – but not cold air.

## **CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY IF:**

- The reliever has no effect after 5 to 10 minutes.
- The child looks blue.
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk.

- The child collapses.
- If you have any doubts about the child's condition

### **After the attack**

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in the school. As soon as they feel better, they can return to school activities.

Parents will be informed when an attack has occurred.

Reviewed September 2022

Review September 2023

Reviewed by Staff: Miss Ireland

Reviewed by Governor:

### **Administration of Medicines**

The person responsible for dealing with the administration of medicines in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs in Schools Document, including keeping records of parental permission, keeping medicines secure, keeping records of administration, and safely disposing of medicines which are no longer required is:	First Mrs V Caygill
	Second Mrs A Kingston

The person responsible for the dealing with the administration of controlled drugs such as ritalin in accordance with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs in Schools Document, including keeping records of parental permission, liaising with the providing pharmacist, keeping medicines secure, keeping records of administration, and safely disposing of medicines which are no longer required is:	First Mrs V Caygill
	Second Mrs A Kingston

The person(s) responsible for undertaking and reviewing the healthcare plans of pupils with medical needs is:	Miss R Ireland
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### **Asthma Inhalers**

The person responsible for the supervision and storage where appropriate of asthma inhalers is:	Mrs V Caygill
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