



ASTHMA POLICY

Principles

- The Trust recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensure that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keep a comprehensive and up to date register of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensure that other children understand asthma
- Ensure all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will 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

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 (Governing Body) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. All staff are updated on the control of asthma in school at the annual first aid refresher training.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever is vital. Reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom, in a box controlled by the Teacher and Teaching Assistant. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler and are aware that it is their responsibility to ensure that it is always in date.

School staff are not obliged to administer the inhaler, only to supervise its use. Staff must ensure that inhalers are taken into every PE lesson so they are available immediately should they be required.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to complete an admission form, which identifies all medical issues. Based on this information, parents are then required to complete a medical form to highlight all medication regularly used and held in school. All this information is then transferred to a medical register, which contains a current photograph of each child, so that all staff can identify individual children at a glance.

All schools in the Trust hold an emergency inhaler as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' September 2014

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers and support staff 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. Each child's named inhalers will be 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.

The School Environment

The Trust does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma, including a non-smoking policy.

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 fully informed about the attack.

Emergency procedure

Call the child's parent urgently from the admin office if:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

If the parent is unobtainable, call an ambulance or take the child to Rutland Memorial Hospital. Always ensure that a member of staff accompanies the child, as well as driving the car.

If for any reason the child stops breathing, an ambulance should be called immediately