

BLACKSHAW MOOR CE (VC) FIRST SCHOOL

Asthma Policy

This school recognizes that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school encourages pupils 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. All staff who comes into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has asthma training.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma must have their reliever with them at all times. It must be kept in their school bag.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler and to ensure that it is in date. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. Inhalers should be kept in childrens own bags and a spare kept in the classroom by the class teacher. It must be accessible at all times including when children make off site visits.
- 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/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 an Asthma Form to complete and this is kept in the Asthma Register in the office on the shelves above the filing cabinets. Parents/Carers 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 forms are then sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to up date. Parents/carers are also asked to update the form if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with PE staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.
- Pupils with asthma going off site. E.g. on educational or sporting visits pupils must take their inhaler with them and teachers must remind parents to ensure pupils have their inhalers in letters informing of trips.

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.
- PE teachers, classroom teachers and out of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimize these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

School Environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive 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 pupils understand asthma. Asthma awareness can be included in the National Curriculum Key Stage 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

- If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs co-ordinator about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognizes that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

Asthma attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

If a child suffers a severe asthma attack you must

- 1) Remain calm
- 2) Call for help - Member of support staff
 - Parents
 - (9) 999 if concerned
- 3) Sit the child in a comfortable position. They will probably know this themselves. If not try them standing up but leaning over the back of a chair.
- 4) Give several separate puffs of the reliever (blue puffer), use a spacer – a plastic cup with a hole cut in the bottom will suffice.
- 5) Make sure the child breathes gently, avoiding hyperventilating. As the breathing eases encourage deeper breathes so that the medication can get further into the lungs.

6) The child must go to see their GP or Asthma nurse even if they have apparently “recovered”.

ASTHMA INFORMATION CHART

NAME OF CHILD _____

CLASS _____

HOME TEL: _____

EMERGENCY TEL 1: _____

EMERGENCY TEL 2: _____

ASTHMA MEDICATION / PUFFERS:

Name of preventor (usually brown) _____ Dose

Name of reliever (usually blue) _____ Dose

Type of device - MDI Dischaler Turbohaler Accuhaler Other

Does your child bring an inhaler to school? **YES / NO**

If so;

Name of medication _____ Dose

Method of taking (e.g. spacer etc.)

When might your child need to use it?

Does your child have a particular method of easing attacks? If so what?

Is there any trigger factor that we need to know about e.g. cold, pollen, animals, exercise etc?

Does your child need help with his/her puffer?

Is there any other information we need to know?

**If possible we would like to have spares of your child's medication in school.
Is this the case now? YES / NO (please delete as necessary)**

***PLEASE ENSURE THAT THESE ARE CAREFULLY LABELLED WITH
YOUR CHILD'S NAME AND THE DATE THEY WERE SENT INTO
SCHOOL.***

If no please arrange with your doctor to have a spares prescription written.

Signed _____

Name Printed _____

Thank you for this valuable information, will ask for it to be updated on a yearly basis. If there are any changes to your child's treatment we need to be informed as soon as possible.