

Asthma Policy



Oastlers Policy

Approved by Governing Body On	November 2020
To be Reviewed On	November 2022
Signed on Behalf of the Governing Body	Sue Mawson

Policy Statement

This policy has been put together in collaboration with school staff, parents, School Nurses, Governors and volunteers to ensure that the individual needs of learners are met when a child has asthma.

This policy:

- Recognises the needs of learners with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate as fully as possible in all aspects of school life, including for example Physical Education (PE), visits, outings and field trips
- Ensures relevant staff are trained in how to deal with an asthma attack

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many learners at the school. The school positively welcomes all learners with asthma. This school encourages learners 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 and learners.

Guidance

In order to achieve the above the following guidance is recommended:

- Identified staff are given training about asthma and the use of inhalers
- All staff have a clear understanding of procedures to follow when a child has an asthma attack
- Reliever inhalers for learners are accessible at all times. Where appropriate learners should preferably carry their own inhalers with a spare inhaler kept by school
- The school maintains a register of learners with asthma and each individual learner with asthma has a self-management plan available in school
- School follows the Department of Health guidelines regarding the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers

Management of Asthma in Schools

Early administration of the correct reliever treatment will cause the majority of attacks to be completely resolved.

As immediate access is vital to early administration of the inhaler all inhalers held in school are stored in the filing cabinet in Reception.

For each child with asthma a care plan is held with the child's inhaler giving the dose to take in the event of an attack. It is parent/carers responsibility to inform school of any changes to their child's treatment

Parent/Carers should supply an in date in inhaler its **original packaging** with a pharmacy label. Inhalers will be sent home at the end of each term for cleaning and replacing if out of date.

There are identified staff in school who are able to administer asthma medicines to learners (except in an emergency), along with all first aid staff.

All school staff will let learners take their own inhalers when necessary.

Use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school

From 1 October 2015 (updated), the Human Medicines (Amendment) (no2) Regulations 2014 allow schools to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. The inhaler can be used if the learner's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken or empty). This change applies to all primary and secondary schools in the UK. Schools are not required to hold an inhaler- this is a discretionary power enabling schools to do this if they wish.

At Oastlers school we hold an emergency inhaler in reception and will ensure that it will only be used by learners, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed an inhaler, or who have prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. A learner may be prescribed an inhaler for their asthma which contains an alternative reliever medication to salbutamol (such as terbutaline). The salbutamol inhaler should still be used by learners if their own reliever is not accessible – it will still help to relieve their asthma and could save their life.

We will ensure the following:

- Asthma Care plans are in place for learners that have diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, a copy of which will be kept with the emergency inhaler. There will be a list in the front, of all learners who have parental permission for the use of the Emergency Inhaler. This allows staff to have a quick check for initiating the emergency response.
- That the emergency inhaler is only used by learners with asthma with written parental consent for its use.
- Keep a record of parental consent on the asthma register to enable staff to quickly check whether a child is able to use the inhaler in an emergency. Consent will be updated annually to take account of changes to the learner's condition.
- Appropriate support and training will be given to identified staff in the use of the emergency inhaler. This training will take place annually.
- A record will be kept of the use of the emergency inhaler and parent/carer will be informed that their child has used the emergency inhaler.

In the event of an asthma attack:

- Staff will follow the Asthma Care Plan.
- The child's parent/carer will be informed of the attack
- Learner will be monitored whilst in school

All staff should be clear that when calling for an ambulance in an emergency situation that a Paramedic is requested

Implementing the Policy

Nominated first aid school staff should implement the policy

- Consult with representatives from parents, governors, children, school health in the policy and set review dates
- Asthma training for identified school staff should be carried out annually by the School Health team.
- School should compile a register of children with asthma and keep with inhalers in reception.
- Parents/carers should be encouraged to keep the school and School Nursing teams informed of changes in the self-management plan.
- A copy of this policy will be sent to all parents of learners that have an Asthma Care Plan and will also be on the school website.
- This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

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.

If a child has asthma school should request a Asthma Care plan for that child.

School will ask parents/carers to ensure that their child's inhaler is:

- Correctly labelled with a pharmacy prescription label in original packaging
- Cap intact

- In-date
- A spacer is provided. (this applies to children under 12years old or has been prescribed)

Usage of inhalers will be recorded on record of medication administration form as per Administering Medication Policy and parent/carers will be notified.

It is the responsibility of the school to keep parents/carers up to date on any untoward occurrences with the child's condition and treatment and to record this for future reference eg if a child has had an attack or asks for an inhaler more often. This will be done by a telephone call from the administering first aider.

Exercise and Activity

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all learners. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which learners have asthma from the school's asthma register.

Learners with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE teachers will remind learners whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. If a learner 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.

Visits, Outings or School Trips

When learners are taken out on school trips it is the responsibility of school staff to ensure that inhalers are taken along for each learner with asthma. The same principles are used as for exercise where outdoors activities are involved.

A mobile phone should always be available for any emergency situations.

Additional Guidance

- Asthma UK website (2015)
- Asthma UK (2006) School Policy Guidelines.
- Department of Health (2014) Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhaler in schools

