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## Policy for

# ASTHMA

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Prepared by:	Adopted by Board of Directors	Signed	Renewal Date (1 year)
C. Lord	<b>May 2020</b>	  ----- Chair of Board of Directors	<b>May 2021</b>

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to advise school Staff and Governing Body on the way the school supports pupils with asthma.

## **PRINCIPLES**

Victoria Road Primary school

- recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious (at times FATAL) but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities
- recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take
- ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- ensures that all pupils understand asthma
- ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- understands that pupils with asthma may experience bullying and has procedures in place to prevent this
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

## **BACKGROUND**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare

professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils. This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. 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 come into contact with pupils with asthma will be provided with training on asthma.

## **ASTHMA MEDICINES**

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential, therefore the reliever inhalers of all children are kept in the classroom in a readily accessible Asthma Medicines container. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to manage their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough.
- All inhalers (and spacers, where relevant) must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. The parent/carer will be responsible for ensuring that the inhaler contains adequate medicine and is within its expiry date.
- 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. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

## **RECORDKEEPING**

- In the first Newsletter of each school year or when a child enrolls in the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma. This is recorded on SIMS.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent a My Asthma Plan leaflet to complete and return to the school.
- Parents/carers are also asked to update the leaflet for a new one if their child's medicines, or dosage, changes during the year.
- The original completed My Asthma Plan is held in the classroom's Asthma Medicines container along with a sheet for recording when

the inhaler is used. In the case of younger children who need assistance with administration, this means that staff are able to ascertain the correct dosage.

## **EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY.**

- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. 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. Teachers should take the Asthma Medicines container to the site of the PE 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.

## **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.
- Classroom teachers and out-of-hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Children participating in any out-of-hours sport club need to take their inhaler with them to the site of the lesson.
- The application form for the club will state- does your child have asthma? If so your child MUST carry a reliever for use at the club.

## **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 inside the school buildings. All animals are located in

the field area and Asthmatic children vetted for access. School 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.

## **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 SENCO about the pupil's needs. A referral form for the school nurse is available on the network for all staff to access.
- The school recognises 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.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. This procedure is displayed in the staffroom.