

## Policy for Asthma

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<b>Governor Responsibility:</b>	Learning and Community
<b>Staff Responsibility:</b>	M Moss
<b>Review Period:</b>	Annual
<b>Status:</b>	Statutory
<b>Reviewed:</b>	Summer 2024
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	Summer 2025
<b>Governor Signature</b>	

## Introduction: Our Principles:

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- Endeavours that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma so children with asthma can fully participate.
- 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 all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and know the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack.
- Ensures school staff will facilitate pupils to take their medicines when they need to
- Endures training is updated annually.
- Ensures that school staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy.

## Record Keeping - Health Care Plans

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school. They are sent a Health Care Plan (HCP) to complete for the school's records. Refer to the school's policy: Supporting Children with Medical Needs document.

From the HCPs the school keeps its medical records of the child's condition. Teachers are given a copy of the HCP for the class 'inclusion folder' so they know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the school about any change in their child's medication or treatment. **It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school if their child is likely to need their reliever more often at certain times of year** e.g. if they have a cold or hay fever or before P.E.

## Asthma Medication

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. All children's individual inhalers must be in the original, prescribed packaging. The reliever inhalers of all children are kept in the school medical room. All children should be supplied with a spacer by their parent/carer. These are kept in the medical room in each child's medical pouch, with the child's name and a copy of their Health Care Plan (HCP).

The school will ensure spare inhalers and spacers are available for emergency use. These are left on a hook, outside each classroom area, one per floor, out of children's reach. A list of children who have a diagnosis of and HCP referring to asthma is kept with the spare sets. The PE lead also has a spare inhaler. A spare emergency spacer should be given to the child and replaced, if used,

If an inhaler is reaching its expiry date the school will take the following steps:

- Email the parent/carer and request that a new inhaler is brought into school.
- The request will be logged on the overview of health care plan register.
- If the parent/carer fails to supply the inhaler as requested, follow up emails will be sent.

Without the inhaler, in the event of an asthma attack, staff will be unable to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on spare emergency inhalers.

### **Exercise and Activity - PE and Games**

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including P.E. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers if instructed by the parent/carer on their HCP.

### **When a child is falling behind**

The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma. If a child is missing a lot of time from school or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and inclusion manager about the situation.

### **The School Environment**

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is accessible to pupils with asthma. The school will take into consideration, any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibility of exposure to these triggers. On school trips a designated member of staff will carry the inhaler for the child and will always be available.



### **The School Procedure**

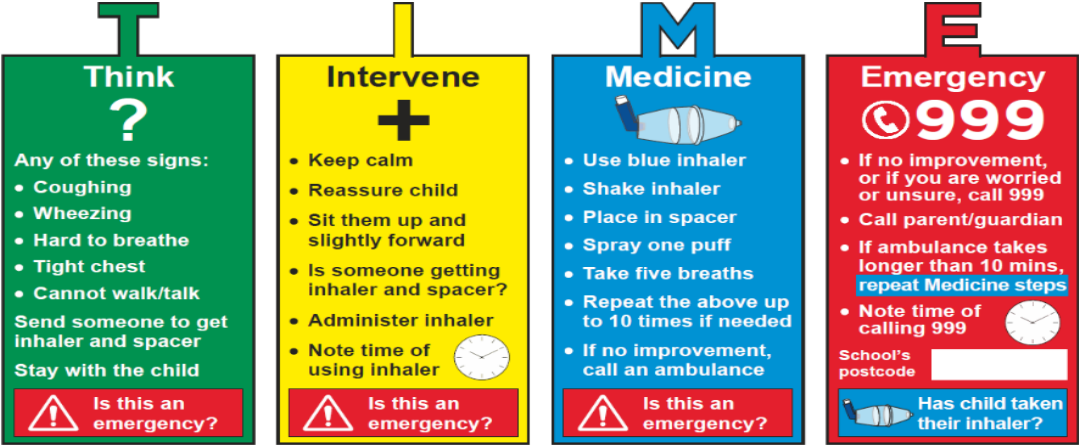
Recognising an asthma attack: A child is having an asthma attack if:

- Their reliever inhaler (usually blue) is not helping and /or
- They are avoiding exertion.
- They cannot talk in sentences.
- They cannot walk easily.
- They have difficulty breathing.
- They are wheezing.
- They have chest pain or tightness (or tummy ache).

## In an emergency

The school will follow the TIME guidelines:

Whittington Health  **Child having an asthma attack?** 




The poster is divided into four colored columns: Think (green), Intervene (yellow), Medicine (blue), and Emergency (red). Each column has a large letter at the top and a list of instructions. The 'Emergency' column includes a clock icon and a field for the school's postcode.

**T Think**  
Any of these signs:  
• Coughing  
• Wheezing  
• Hard to breathe  
• Tight chest  
• Cannot walk/talk  
Send someone to get inhaler and spacer  
Stay with the child  
**Is this an emergency?**

**I Intervene**  
• Keep calm  
• Reassure child  
• Sit them up and slightly forward  
• Is someone getting inhaler and spacer?  
• Administer inhaler  
• Note time of using inhaler  
**Is this an emergency?**

**M Medicine**  
• Use blue inhaler  
• Shake inhaler  
• Place in spacer  
• Spray one puff  
• Take five breaths  
• Repeat the above up to 10 times if needed  
• If no improvement, call an ambulance  
**Is this an emergency?**

**E Emergency**  
• If no improvement, or if you are worried or unsure, call 999  
• Call parent/guardian  
• If ambulance takes longer than 10 mins, repeat Medicine steps  
• Note time of calling 999  
School's postcode:   
Has child taken their inhaler?  
**Is this an emergency?**

**When asthma strikes, it's TIME to act.**  
15 February 2017 V2  
  
Helping local people live longer, healthier lives

1. Help the child to sit up straight and stay calm.
2. Help the child take a puff of their reliever inhaler (usually blue) with their spacer and count 5 five breaths.
3. Give up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
4. Call 999 for an ambulance and call their parent if:
  - a. their symptoms get worse while they are using their inhaler.
  - b. they do not feel better after 10 puffs.
  - c. they are worried at any time, even if they have not yet taken 10 puffs.
5. While waiting for the ambulance, reassure the child.
6. Repeat step 2 and 3 if the ambulance takes longer than 10 minutes.

In an Emergency the school will:

- Call parents/ carers.
- Send the child's written HCP and medication with the child if they are taken to hospital.
- Record the incident in the accident folder.

Note: 999 will be called immediately in the following situations:

- If there is no inhaler available.
- If the child does not have an asthma HCP.

**After the asthma attack:**

- Parents must be informed even if the child does not go to hospital.
- Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school.
- When the child feels feel better, they can return to school activities.

## **Access and review of policy**

The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school's website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office. This policy will be reviewed on an annual cycle.

### **This policy should be read in accordance with the following policies:**

Health & Safety Policy  
Supporting children with medical needs policy  
Data protection policy  
Policy for intimate care  
Equal opportunities policy  
Disabilities and Equal Access (DEA) Policy  
Safer Recruitment Policy

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (DfE September 2014).

Link on school website: <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>