

Saint Augustine's Catholic Primary School



Part of Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust Asthma Policy

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SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our Catholic school is united in God's love, enabling everyone to grow in love for one another and to develop in faith. We strive for all children to achieve their best by becoming active and confident learners in a nurturing and caring environment. We guide everyone to shine in their own unique way.

'Unique and United in God's love. We let our light shine'

Introduction

St. Augustine's Catholic Primary School is a multi-faith, multi-cultural urban primary school serving families and children from a wide social background. Our children have a wide range of Special Educational and Medical Needs.

The School:

- Recognizes that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition
- Welcomes children with asthma
- Ensures that all children with asthma participate in all areas of the school curriculum, out of school activities, after-school clubs and out-of hours activities
- Recognizes 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 school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma
- In partnership with parents, ensures that all children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff know what to do in an asthma attack
- Works in partnership with the school governors, parents, carers, medical staff and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully

Definition of Asthma

Children with asthma have airways which narrow due to a reaction to various triggers.

The triggers vary between individuals, but the most common are:

- Grass pollen
- Animal fur
- House dust mites
- Cold air
- Viral infections
- Exercise
- Stress

Symptoms

The most common signs of asthma attack are:

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Being short of breath
- Feeling of having a tight chest
- Being unusually quiet or having difficulty talking

Medicines and Control

Advice will be sought from appropriate health professionals e.g. GP, CMO, School Nurse, Health Visitor and Asthma Nurse. There are two types of medicines to treat asthma:

- Relievers (blue inhalers) are medicines taken immediately to relieve asthma on the onset and/or during an asthma attack. They are sometimes taken before exercise.

- Preventers (brown, red, orange and purple inhalers or sometimes tablets) are usually used in the morning and/or evening. Some children may use a spacer device (with or without a mask) to dispense the medicine.

CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA NEED TO HAVE IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO THEIR RELIEVER INHALERS WHEN THEY NEED THEM

Record Keeping

- At the beginning of the school year or when a child joins the school, all parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma on their enrollment form which is in the school brochure
- All parents/carers of children identified with asthma are expected complete an asthma card with the help of their GP or Asthma Nurse
- School will create an asthma register which will be available to all staff. The register will be updated regularly. Asthma cards will be copied and kept in class (with regard to issues of confidentiality) and available to all staff working with children.
- It is the parents/carers responsibility to update or exchange asthma cards if their child's condition or medication changes during the school year.
- If a child experiences an asthma attack which requires the use of medication during the school day, all staff will follow the school's procedures for recording and reporting the incident to parents/carers. A standard letter will be sent home to inform parents/carers of an asthma attack requiring medication and a copy kept for school records.

Storage of Medicines

- Class teachers will store medication in a safe, but readily accessible place. Medication will be clearly labeled with the child's name and expiry date and kept in a lidded box which can be taken out of school when necessary.

MEDICATION PRESCRIBED FOR ONE CHILD MUST NOT BE USED TO TREAT ANOTHER CHILD

- Inhalers must be readily available during P.E. Sports activities and educational visits
- If a child's asthma is severe, a spare inhaler may be prescribed and kept in an accessible cupboard, clearly labeled with the child's name and expiry date.

IT IS THE PARENT'S/CARER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT ANY MEDICATION STORED IN SCHOOL IS WITHIN THE EXPIRY DATE

Treatment

- When a child has an asthma attack, they will be treated according to details given on their asthma card as previously agreed with their parents/carers
- All children will be encouraged to verbalize their symptoms in language appropriate to their development
- In the case of children with limited English, bi-lingual support will be obtained
- Children will be encouraged to remain calm and relaxed. Staff can assist children by keeping them in an upright position, keeping them talking and staying calm themselves.

AN AMBULANCE WILL BE CALLED IF:

- **SYMPTOMS DO NOT IMPROVE SUFFICIENTLY IN 5-10 MINUTES**
- **THE CHILD BECOMES TOO BREATHLESS TO SPEAK**
- **THE CHILD IS BECOMING EXHAUSTED**
- **THE CHILD LOOKS BLUE**

Exercise and Activity

- The school recognizes that taking part in P.E., Dance, Sports, Games and Activities are an essential part of school life for all pupils. All children are encouraged to take part and any reluctance to do so will be discussed with parents/carers and the child. No child will be forced to participate if they are unwell. It is the responsibility of the parents to arrange regular reviews with relevant health care professionals and report back on any changes to school and class teachers so that asthma plans can be updated/reviewed
- All staff must be aware of the effects of cold weather on asthma sufferers and plan activities accordingly, particularly warm-up and cool-down activities
- All staff must remind affected children to take their preventative medicine and keep inhalers within close reach during PE lessons
- All staff must be aware that running around at break times during the school day can exacerbate asthma and ask affected children to sit in the school entrance accompanied by another child.

School Environment

School will do all it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma e.g. school has a definitive No Smoking Policy and actively discourages furry animals entering the premises. As far as possible, school will not use chemicals that trigger asthma attacks, but if pupils are at risk of coming in contact with such triggers, they will be asked to sit in the school entrance

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors

- Oversee the planning and implementation of the school's Asthma Policy with the help of school staff, health professionals, parents/carers and pupils
- Liaise between interested parties
- Ensure the policy is maintained and monitored to assess how well it is working
- Assess and meet the training needs of all staff
- Ensure all new and supply staff are aware of the policy
- Delegate a staff member to check the expiry date of inhalers and to maintain the asthma register

School Staff

- Understand and follow the asthma policy
- Know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma
- Know what to do in an asthma attack
- Enable pupil access to inhalers at all times throughout the school day
- Report any episodes to parents/carers
- Inform parents/carers if children are using more than prescribed dose of medication

- Ensure pupils carry inhalers when out of school
- Ensure continuity of education for children who are absent due to asthma attacks
- Be aware that asthmatic children may be prone to bullying and follow appropriate school procedures
- Liaise with parent/carers, health professionals and Inclusion Leader if a child is at risk of falling behind because of their asthma

Parents/Carers

- Inform the school if their child has asthma
- Ensure the school has an up-to-date asthma card
- Inform the school what medication their child needs both in school and on out-of-school activities
- Inform the school of any changes in their child's asthma and any resultant changes in medication
- Provide labeled inhalers/spacers for their child
- Ensure the inhalers and any spares are within expiry date
- Keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- Ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with relevant health care professionals
- Ensure their child understands their condition, can articulate their symptoms and self-administer the exact dose of medication (where appropriate)

Pupils

- Treat other pupils with and without asthma equally
- Ensure a member of staff is called if another child is having an asthma episode
- Tell another child or member of staff if they are not feeling well
- Know how to gain access to their inhalers in an emergency
- Treat their medication with respect
- Understand their condition and know exactly how to take the correct prescribed dose of medication
- Learn how to describe their symptoms to an adult