

## **Asthma Policy**



*'Learning Through Faith'*

### **Newchurch St Mary's CE Primary Academy**

*"At St Mary's we believe that ordinary people can choose to be extraordinary"*

#### **The Principles of our school Asthma Policy**

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This Policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, National Asthma campaign and the school health services. The school encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils. Supply staff and new staff members are also made aware of this policy, all staff will be provided with asthma training on a regular basis. Miss Hacking the school Asthma champion and Mrs Nightingale, the Head teacher are responsible for all aspects of implementing this Asthma policy.

#### **Medication**

We have two labelled emergency kits, one for the infants and one for the juniors. These are kept in the school office under the first aid box in a red bag out of reach of the children. Each kit contains a salbutamol metered dose inhaler, two spacers compatible with the inhaler, instruction on using the inhaler and spacer and instructions on cleaning and storing

the inhaler. Both inhalers also come with a manufacturing information sheet and the expiry dates for the emergency inhalers are kept on the Asthma register along with their Lot numbers. The inhaler has 200 puffs, so when it reaches 180 puffs used, the school will replace it. The spacer can be re-used, after each use it will be dismantled and washed in hot soapy water using a soft cloth, and left to air dry and reassembled. The inhaler can also be reused, but following use, the inhaler canister can be removed and the plastic inhaler housing cap can be washed in warm running water and left to air dry. The canister can then be returned to the plastic housing when dry and the cap replaced. Staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler and there are instructions in the inhaler bags.

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital, children should always tell their class teacher or first aider when they require their inhaler and they will immediately go to the school office to administer their inhaler.

Records are kept each time an inhaler is used and recorded in the first aid book, prior to the children bringing an inhaler to school parents will complete a medical form with full instructions on inhaler usage and where possible parents will provide school with an Asthma plan.

School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however many of our staff are happy to do this. This will be agreed with parents when they complete their child's medication request form and provide school with an Asthma plan, where possible we always encourage children to administer their own inhalers.

### **Record Keeping**

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a School medication request form and provide an Asthma care plan and return it to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is kept in the staff room in a folder clearly identified as "Asthma Folder" This asthma register is also kept in the emergency inhaler kits. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school. Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by a named member of staff (Miss Hacking– Asthma Champion). All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All this information is found in the Asthma folder in the school office.

### **PE**

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the medical/asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Records are kept every time a child uses their inhaler.

## **School Trips and Outside Activities**

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times.

## **The School environment**

All staff will receive regular asthma updates, this training is provided by the school nursing team and is usually done via teams on an annual basis.

The school does all that it can do to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a none smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science or art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to get fresh air if any particular fumes trigger their asthma.

## **Making the School Asthma Friendly**

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages One and Two in Science, Design and Technology, Geography, History and PE of the National Curriculum. All students and staff members are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk).

## **When a Child is falling behind in lessons**

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma 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 nursing team and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

## **Asthma Attacks**

Children diagnosed with asthma or a wheeze, which can present as:

- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath

Should be given 2 to 6 puffs of their reliever (blue) inhaler. If better, no action is required. If 6 to 10 puffs are needed, parents/carers need to be called and a child collected and seen by a medical professional the same day.

If little or no improvement after 10 puffs, dial 999 but at the same time continue to give 10 puffs of inhaler every 15 minutes until medical help arrives or symptoms improve.

In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's parents/carers will always be contacted. In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they would always

be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent/carer is present. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the above procedure, which is clearly displayed in the school staff room, the school website and all staff have regular training.

### **After the attack**

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better, they can return to school activities.

Updated January 2025

Review Date December 2026

*G. Hacking*