

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING



**ST. URSULA'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

ASTHMA POLICY

"With God at the heart of our St Ursula's family, we welcome all as we learn and grow together"

Spring 2024

As a school our belief is that every child deserves to succeed regardless of his or her ability. We therefore ask all parents/carers of children with Asthma to complete an Asthma Plan at the beginning of the autumn term and to inform us throughout the year if any changes are needed.

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 and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils:

- 1) This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- 2) This 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, their employers (the school governors) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. All staff that come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma regularly, from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their own reliever inhaler when and where possible. Parents are also asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler which is kept in the classroom medical bag.

Pupils, who need preventer (2) inhaler, should use these before coming to school.

- 1) Reliever inhalers - Ventalin, Brycanyl, Salbutamal
- 2) Preventer inhalers - Intal, Becotide, Pulmicart

The Teaching Assistant will be responsible in the checking of a child's own inhaler e.g. running out, lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. School staff are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.

As of the 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (No2) Regulations 2014 will allow our school to keep a salbutamol inhaler for emergencies.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom we receive parental consent for the use of the emergency inhaler to be given.

(Further information can be found in the Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school documentation, located in the medical room)

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. From this information the school ensures all cases are recorded in class registers to ensure all staff are aware of their individual needs. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the school's Asthma Register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Each child's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a bag within their classroom and taken to their PE lesson by the teacher. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. Also as a school we have a non-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit outside the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website 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. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse 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 Friendly School Status

In March 2024 St Ursula's was awarded the Asthma Friendly School Status. This was achieved by meeting the following criteria:

- Having an asthma champion and named asthma lead
- Having an asthma policy
- Having an asthma register for all children with asthma
- Having an emergency inhaler kit
- Having personalised asthma action plans for each child with asthma
- Having a system to identify children who are missing school or not participating in activities due to asthma
- Ensuring inhalers are stored in a cool place and are easily accessible
- Ensuring medication is clearly labelled
- Training at least 85% of staff on asthma

This accreditation is renewed every 3 years.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who comes into contact with children with asthma knows what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedures:

1. Keep calm and reassure the child
2. Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
3. Use the child's own inhaler—if not available, use the school's emergency inhaler
4. Assist child to take 2 puffs of inhaler using spacer
5. If no improvement continue to give 2 puffs at 2 minutes apart. Up to a maximum of 10 puffs

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The child's parents must be told about the attack.

Emergency procedure

Call 999 urgently if:

- If the child does not feel better or there is no improvement
- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition
- If for any reason the child stops breathing

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate.

School's Asthma Contacts

Asthma Champion – Mrs J Carragher

School Nurse – Ms K Price

Use the following links to access external information on this subject:

www.asthma.org.uk

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk


Signed: _____
Head teacher/


Signed: _____
Governing Body

7th February 2024