

Tregoze Primary School - Asthma Policy

This school is fully committed to its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of the children and young people in its care. "The welfare of the child is paramount." Children Act 1989.

This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the school's First Aid and Accident reporting policy and Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship policy, to ensure that the correct procedures are followed.

Rationale

At Tregoze we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all children with asthma. We encourage all children to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community.

Principles

We aim to ensure that:

- children 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.
- children have access to asthma reliever inhalers as needed.
- a record of all children with asthma and the medicines they take is kept and updated regularly.
- the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to children with asthma.
- all children understand asthma.
- all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- we will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, Local authority, doctors, nurses and children to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to children (except in an emergency). All staff will let children take their own medicine when they need to.
- Inhalers may be kept by the child's teacher for easy access in the classroom or as the child's personal property (KS2).
- Inhalers must be taken on any trip out of school including swimming.
- If a child suffers a severe asthma attack a trained first aider should give first aid and the parents and Head teacher informed.
- Class teachers should be aware of anything which may trigger an asthma attack.

Record keeping

- When a child has used their inhaler this must be recorded on the class sheet.
- It is the responsibility of the classroom staff to inform parents when a child has used their inhaler in school.

Exercise and activity - PE and games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all children. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and each class has a copy of the asthma register. We encourage children as they get older to try to remember this themselves and to take more control in remembering their medication. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind children 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. If a child needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

Off site sport and swimming and Educational Visits.

The health benefits of exercise are well documented. Asthma inhalers are taken off site and when a child participates in swimming, sports activities and educational visits.

School environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The 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 children with asthma. Children with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

If 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 Special Education Needs Coordinator about the pupil's needs. 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 flow chart. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staff room notice board and in the accident book.

School: Tregoze Primary

Name of Principal: Helen Tudor

SENCO: Tina Burbidge

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