



Birdham CE Primary School

ASTHMA POLICY

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art, PE, science, educational visits and out of hours activities
- 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
- Strives to make the whole school environment, including the physical, social, and sporting aspects favourable to pupils with asthma
- 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
- Ensure that the whole school community understand asthma, its effects on children and adults, and how they can support children with this condition

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers of all children are kept in the first aid room.

It is advised that the school is provided with a labelled, in date spare reliever inhaler, and these should be kept in the first aid room. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.

If a parent/carer has stated that their child requires an inhaler in school but does not supply an **in-date inhaler**, the school will take the following action:

- Phone the parent/carer and request that the inhaler is brought into school without delay. The phone call will be logged. Further conversations may be appropriate, at the discretion of the school.
- If the parent/carer fails to supply the inhaler as requested, write to the parent. This should repeat the request for the inhaler and states that 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 calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services. The letter will be filed with the child's asthma information form.
- School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will facilitate pupils to take their medicines when they need to.

For information on how to clean spacers please go to
www.asthma4children.com

Record keeping

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school, for the school's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers. All parents/carers of children with asthma are asked to complete an Individual Health Care Plan and return to the school office. From this information the school keeps its asthma records. All teachers 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.

Exercise and activity - PE and games

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent/carer on the Care Plan) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down. Each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a coloured tray in the first aid room.

School Environment

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is favourable 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.

Asthma Attacks – School's Procedure

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the school procedure:

- Encourage the pupil to use their inhaler
- Summon a first aider who will bring the pupil's Asthma Information Form and will ensure that the inhaler is used according to the dosage on the form
- All inhalers will be self-administered under supervision, wherever possible
- If the pupil's condition does not improve or worsens, the First Aider will follow the 'Emergency asthma treatment' procedures
- The First Aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition
- If there is any doubt about a pupil's condition an ambulance will be called

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.