

APPLEGARTH PRIMARY SCHOOL



Asthma policy

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The Principles of our school Asthma Policy:

- 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.
- 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 conducive 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
- Supply teachers and new staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma regularly, from the School Nurse.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their own reliever inhaler as soon as the parents, doctor/nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough e.g. during PE lessons, on visits and residential. They will be supervised and recorded by an adult. The inhalers will be kept in a bag/box in the classroom. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler.

All inhalers must have the doctor's prescription label with the child's name and dosage instructions on. School will not accept inhalers without this prescription label, or a label in another person's name.

School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this 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, in accordance with the prescription guidance.**

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. Parents should bring an asthma card from their GP and we will take a copy of it. From this information the school keeps its medical information which is available for all school staff. Cards are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

Applegarth Primary School does hold an Emergency Inhaler in the School Office.

'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' September 2014.

The school holds inhalers for each child and they are regularly checked for expiry dates by a member of the office staff, Susie Warriner/Berna Ward.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the information held in each classroom and on the staffroom board. 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. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. 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. The school does not keep furry pets and has 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 Key Stages 1 and 2 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, parents and staff 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 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. In severe cases, pupils may be unable to attend school at all. Refer to ***Pupils with Additional Health Needs Attendance Policy***.

Asthma Attacks

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 following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

- 1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**
- 2. Stay calm and reassure the child.**
- 3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.**

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 the child's doctor urgently from the school office using the asthma file to find out the number of the GP if:

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 the Doctor is unobtainable, call an ambulance

If for any reason the child stops breathing, an ambulance should be called immediately

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