



St Stephen's RC Primary School

Managing Asthma Policy

Vision

A world class school for children that want to make the world a better place as God intended

Mission Statement

'Love one another, as I have loved you.'
John 13:34

Our Values - St Stephen's CARES

Compassion, Ambition, Rejoice, Excellence, Service

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| Compassion | <i>be compassionate in all of our actions</i> |
| Ambition | <i>be ambitious – better ourselves and those around us</i> |
| Rejoice | <i>be rejoiceful – celebrate the Good News</i> |
| Excellence | <i>be excellent in everything we do – work hard always</i> |
| Service | <i>be a steward of the Lord – a service to the community</i> |

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| SLT approval | September 2023 |
| Review date | September 2025 |

Asthma Policy and Guidelines

Introduction

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting some children in our school. This policy is aimed at an audience of parents and staff, seeking to:

- offer practical advice about the problems which asthmatic children face in school
- make clear the importance for the school to be well prepared to assist in the management and control of asthma in children
- Underline parental obligations in letting the school know if a child has asthma and the relative seriousness of their child's case

A Positive Approach

This school:

- Welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Will encourage and help children with asthma to participate fully in all aspects of school life
- Recognises that immediate access to inhalers is essential
- Will do all it can to make sure that the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Has a clear understanding of what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will ensure that staff are made aware of this Asthma Policy and offer training where appropriate
- Make the policy available to parents via the school website and on request.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to complete a medical form on their enrolment.

From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff.

Parents/carers are asked to inform school if their child's medicines change or the dosage/frequency changes during the year.

Asthma medicines

We recognise that access to reliever medication is essential. With this in mind, reliever inhalers are kept in

- Dedicated box in their classroom
- Centrally in the school office.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with **TWO** labelled reliever inhaler (and a labelled spacer where necessary). All inhalers must be labelled by the parent/carer with the child's name and class. It is the parents/carer's responsibility to ensure that medication provided is in date. See attached appendix

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils but staff will let pupils take their own asthma medicines when they need to and support the younger pupils

in this process. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the Local Authority when acting in agreement with this policy. Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that children always have an inhaler with them in school, for clubs and events (e.g. discos) as well as for use during the school day.

The Asthma Attack

The following guidelines will be used if a known asthmatic pupil becomes breathless, wheezy or coughs continually.

1. Keep calm. It's treatable.
2. Pupil to sit in a position they find comfortable. Lying down is not necessary.
3. Allow pupil to take their usual reliever, giving help, if necessary.
4. The reliever inhaler can be repeated after 5 minutes if no improvement.
- 5. If there is no relief of symptoms after the second dose, ring parents. DO NOT LEAVE THE CHILD ON THEIR OWN**
6. In severe cases, (relief inhaler has no effect at all) call an ambulance and a member of staff will accompany the child to the nearest hospital accident and emergency department. Inform parents.
7. In the case of a suspected first attack the pupil should be kept calm, an ambulance should be called and parents informed.

PE, games, after school clubs

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. The school ensures that all adults teaching PE are aware of which children have asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons whether inside or outdoors.

The person responsible for school clubs off site will take the centrally held reliever inhalers with them and return them to the office staff the next day.

Sports coaches from outside are responsible for ensuring that they are able to deal with an asthma crisis.

Residential stays/school visits

Risk assessments are carried out prior to any visits. Where there is the potential of children coming into contact with animals (e.g. farm visits) parents/carers will be made aware of this is the "visit" letter. They should contact school if any extra precautions need to be taken or, indeed, if they would prefer their child not to take part in the visit.

The school environment

The school has a non-smoking policy throughout the building and grounds both within and outside normal school hours.

The school as far as possible does not use chemicals in science or art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.

Conclusion and Summary

Asthma is a very common illness in children and it is important that it is recognised and that it receives optimum treatment. Modern medical practice is designed to allow a normal quality of life which means taking part in all normal school activities.

Because of the make-up of the school day staff can become aware of possible asthma symptoms, which may otherwise go unrecognised. Should this arise we will undertake to inform parents/carers in order that they may seek professional advice.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Administration of Medicines Policy.