

ASTHMA POLICY

TURNERS HILL CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



**THIS POLICY WAS ADOPTED ON
20TH SEPTEMBER 2016**

THE POLICY IS TO BE REVIEWED IN SEPTEMBER 2018

Our school recognises that asthma is a widespread condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.

Our 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. Supply teachers and new members of staff are also aware of the policy. Staff that come into contact with children with asthma are provided with relevant information from an asthma trained nurse or from Asthma UK and are updated with new procedures as and when they occur.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. A reliever inhaler is kept in a safe place, out of the reach of children, in the child's classroom, where it can be accessed at any time and a spare inhaler is kept in the medical room.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with two reliever inhalers that must be labelled with the child's name and in their original box from the pharmacy. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the reliever inhaler is in date, and also to inform the school if their child is likely to need their inhaler more often at certain times of year e.g. if they have a cold or suffering from hayfever. Parents that provide spacers for use with their child's inhaler are responsible for collecting it on a termly basis to enable regular cleaning of the device to take place.

Members of school staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency. However most staff feel confident to administer medication in a non-emergency situation. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local authority when acting in accordance with this policy.

All school staff will let children take their own medication or help to administer it when they need to. Medication always goes with the child on any offsite activity.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins our school, parents/carers are asked if their child has asthma or any allergies. This information is recorded and disseminated to all members of staff. All parents of children with asthma are given a consent form to complete and are asked return it to the school. From this information the school keeps an asthma register which is kept in the school office and is accessible to school staff.

Consent forms are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

Out of School Hours

Details of any child suffering from asthma will be passed to the member of staff in charge of the relevant after school activities. Children who take part in after school activities will have access to their reliever inhaler at all times under the guidance of the member of staff in charge of the group.

Reliever inhalers will be accessible but safely kept out of the reach of other children.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. A teacher or a member of staff will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the PE lesson begins. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so and supported as necessary.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure that its environment is favourable to children with asthma. Our school keeps chickens and children in Holly class take responsibility for feeding them. On occasions children within the school may also come into contact with them. If you think this may be a problem for your child then please ensure that you inform us. On school trips the teacher or another responsible adult will carry the inhaler for the child and a First Aider will always be available. School staff will always support a child when he/she is taking their medication.

When a child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and their work is suffering as a result the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs co-ordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of the asthma.

Asthma Attacks

It is important that all staff that come into contact with children with asthma are aware of what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

Common Signs of an Asthma Attack

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath

- Wheezing
- Tightness of the chest
- Being unusually quiet
- Difficult speaking in full sentences
- Younger children may express feeling tight in their chest as a tummy ache

Following guidance from The Department of Health Emergency Asthma Inhalers in Schools Document (4th September 2014) and the School Nursing Team the school follows the following procedure:

- **Stay calm and reassure the child.**
- **Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.**
- **Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward – do not hold the child or lie them down.**
- **Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.**
- **Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of their inhaler preferably through a spacer.**
- **If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs or until their symptoms improve.**
- **Never leave a child who is having an asthma attack.**
- **If the child does not feel better or you are worried at anytime before you have reached 10 puffs, call 999 for an ambulance.**
- **If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way.**

Emergency Procedure

The school will call an ambulance and then contact the parent/carers of the child if:

- **The child's symptoms do not improve in 5 – 10 minutes**
- **The child is too breathless to talk**
- **The child's lips are blue**
- **There is any doubt**
- **A member of staff will accompany the child until the parent/carer arrives.**

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/carers must be notified about the attack.

If a child has used their inhaler on one occasion whilst at school then a member of staff will complete the specified pro forma and will ensure that it is given to the child's parent at the end of the school day. If a child has needed to use their inhaler more than this then the child's parents will be contacted immediately and advice sought as to whether their child needs further medical assistance or whether they have recovered sufficiently to remain at school. A record will be kept of the outcome.

Inclusion

In line with our Equalities Scheme, we will provide equal opportunities for all pupils whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment and background.

References:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-asthma-inhalers-for-use-in-schools>

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/child/life/school/>

Agreed on behalf of Staff by

Adopted by Governors

On

Review date September 2018