

St. John's C of E Primary School



Policy for Asthma

Reviewed: Summer 2016
Next review Summer 2018

Background

This policy was produced by all staff. The policy is based upon guidelines from the West Pennine Health Authority, The Royal Oldham Hospital NHS trust and Oldham L.E.A. An Asthma policy is essential in order to ensure that children with asthma have an equal opportunity in their educational environment.

1. The decision to **administer** medicines by teachers remains voluntary.
2. The most frequently prescribed reliever inhalers are *salbutamol* and occasionally *bricanyl*. This asthma policy refers only to the reliever.
3. The main principle underlying this policy is to ensure that all children with asthma have immediate access to their prescribed asthma reliever (asthma preventer inhalers should be administered at home, usually morning and evening). Some inhalers require a spacer device.

This asthma policy refers only to the reliever. Therefore, to facilitate easy access for the child to their inhaler;

- The inhalers should be in a safe accessible place in the school office labelled with the child's name.
- Every time the child uses their inhaler, a note should be made on the medication record form book which is kept with the inhalers. If a teacher feels that the child is over using the device, the parents should be informed of the fact that the asthma may be unstable.
- It remains the responsibility of the parent to seek medical attention and to liaise with the school on the frequency with which the inhalers are taken.
- Checks should be made regularly to make sure that the inhalers are within their '*use by*' date.
- Children should take their inhalers with them to swimming lessons or trips away from the premises.

The Physical Environment

a) Our school operates a no smoking policy on the site, therefore no children should ever be exposed to cigarette smoke. This has adverse effects upon asthmatics.

Animals

b) There are no animals in school which could trigger asthma attacks, but vigilance will be necessary on trips to zoos or farms.

- Class teachers should have a computerised list of all asthmatics in their class, naming the triggers which cause the asthma.
- All asthma sprays should be sent home each July and a new one requested each September.

Information to Parents, Guardians and Carers

As part of the school policy it is proposed that all parents are made aware of how the school will manage a child who has symptoms due to their asthma whilst they are in school. All parents of children entering the school will receive a questionnaire requesting medical information.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Children who are statemented under part 111 of the Education Act 1996 receive a statement of special educational needs. It is possible that for any of these children who may have asthma they will have special requirements to ensure that they take their asthma medication appropriately and that they are appropriately treated in the event of an acute attack. This will be made explicit by the medical team responsible for giving the medical advice input in to the statement.

Indemnity

The Local Authority offers full indemnity to its staff against claims for negligence, providing they are acting within the scope of their employment and have received adequate training and are following appropriate guidelines.