



Chadsmead Primary Academy

Asthma Policy

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Asthma Policy

Including the use of emergency salbutamol in school

The Principles of our Asthma Policy

Chadsmead Primary Academy:

- recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- 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 favourable 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.

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Asthma UK.

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. This 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 and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of this policy. Asthma training forms part of the First Aid training which is updated on a regular basis. Staff throughout school attend First Aid training.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Inhalers are kept in the child's class Medical Box which accompanies the class around school. Children should always tell the member of staff they are with when they need to use their inhaler. Records are kept each time an inhaler is used. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a School Asthma Card (Asthma UK) and return it to the school. From this information the school keeps its Medical Conditions List which is available in all Class Packs, Lunchtime Supervisor trays and displayed in the Medical Room. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school.

Chadsmead Primary Academy does now hold one emergency inhaler and spacer as per Department of Health Document *Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools* March 2015. This medication can only be administered to children on the Medical Conditions List. Staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler.

Parents of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available. See Appendix 1 attached. Parents will be informed by text if their child has used the emergency inhaler (Appendix 2).

Asthma inhalers for each child are checked termly for expiry dates by the class teacher. Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom in a named, sealed bag containing their individual medication and asthma card, in their class designated Medical Box.

All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All this information is found in their Health Care Plan along with their medication.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the Medical Conditions List. 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 available in their class first aid 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. Records are kept every time a child uses their inhaler.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times.

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 and feathery 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 in the break out area if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Appendix 1

**Consent Form:
Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler**

Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler (delete as appropriate)

2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which is kept at school.

3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, *I do/ *do not consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

*please mark as appropriate

Signed: Date:

Name: (print)

Child's Name:

Class:

Parent's address and contact details:

.....

.....

.....

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Please return to the school office as soon as possible

Appendix 2

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use Form

Child's name:

Class:

Date:

Dear

This letter is to formally notify you that.....
has had problems with his/her* breathing today.

This happened when

.....
.....

*They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.

*Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.

*Delete as appropriate

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher

HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK

The signs of an asthma attack are:

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)
- Nasal flaring
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- May try to tell you that their chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as tummy ache)

**CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND
COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK
PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD:**

- Appears exhausted
 - Has a blue/white tinge around lips
 - Is going blue
 - Has collapsed
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WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- Keep calm and reassure the child
 - Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
 - Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler
 - Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them
 - Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of salbutamol via the spacer
 - If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs
 - Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better
 - **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
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