

Asthma Policy



Written by	: Headteacher
Approved by	: Governors
Date	: January 2016
Next review date	: January 2019

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art, PE, science, educational visits and out of hours activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take ☐ Endeavours that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and know the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack

March CE Primary School is a Rights Respecting School. All pupils, staff and visitors have the right to be healthy, safe, educated, listened to and treated fairly. These principles are at the heart of our school ethos, and our policies and practices support these rights. We are committed to equal rights, mutual respect and shared responsibility.

Asthma Medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor/asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the office year group boxes and cupboards.

Parents will be asked to provide the school with a suitable inhaler. These will be checked periodically and parents will be informed if a new inhaler is required. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.

If a parent/carer has stated that their child requires an inhaler in school but does not supply an in-date inhaler, the school will take the following action:

- Phone the parent/carer and request that the inhaler is brought into school without delay. Further conversations may be appropriate at the discretion of the school.
- Inhalers can be administered by the child with the support of a First Aider or appointed person.
- For off-site visits the First Aider will be responsible for ensuring that all appropriate inhalers are taken on the visit and he/she will keep the inhalers with them throughout the visit.
- Inhalers are sent home at the end of each term and it is the parent's responsibility to check that they have medication in them, that they are in date and that spacers are clean.

For information on how to clean spacers please go to www.asthma4children.com

Record Keeping

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school, for the school's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are given an asthma information form to complete and return to school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the school about any change in their child's medication or treatment.

Exercise and Activity – PE and Games

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent/carer on the asthma form) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down. Each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson.

School Environment

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school will take into consideration any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibility of exposure to these triggers.

Asthma Attacks – School's Procedure

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 AMUBLANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ATHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD:

- Appears exhausted.
- Has a blue/white tinge around lips. ☒
- Is going blue.
- Has collapsed.

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 – consult pupil asthma form for correct dosage.
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.
- If there is no immediate improvement consult pupil form for giving additional puffs from inhaler.
- 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 ten puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMUBLANCE.
- If an ambulance does not arrive in ten minutes give another ten puffs in the same way.

School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will facilitate pupils to take their medicines when they need to.

Access and Review of Policy

The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school’s website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office. This policy will be reviewed on a three yearly cycle.

Jan 2016.

Review Han 2019

Signed (Chair of Governors)

Signed (Headteacher)