HOLYPORT C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL & FOUNDATION UNIT

SCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY
2024-2025

Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Featherstone

Asthma Lead: Mrs Val Derrett

Asthma Champion: Mrs Rachel Owens

School Nursing Team: RBWM School Nursing Service

https://rbwm.afcinfo.org.uk/pages/community-information/information-and-advice/family-hub-service/health/school-nursing

Asthma

Asthma is a condition that affects small tubes (airways) that carry air in and out of the lungs. When a person with asthma comes into contact with something that irritates their airways (an asthma trigger), the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten so that the airways become narrower, and the lining of the airways becomes inflamed and starts to swell. Sometimes, sticky mucus or phlegm builds up, which can further narrow the airways. These reactions make it difficult to breathe, leading to symptoms of asthma (Source: Asthma UK).

As a school, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition. This school welcomes all pupils with asthma and aims to support these children in participating fully in school life. We endeavour to do this by ensuring we have:

- an asthma register
- up-to-date asthma policy
- an asthma lead
- all pupils with immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times
- all pupils have an up-to-date asthma action plan
- a school emergency salbutamol inhaler
- ensure all staff have regular asthma training
- promote asthma awareness pupils, parents and staff

(This policy has been adopted from a policy provided by NHS Foundation Trust Frimley Health)

Asthma Register

We have an asthma register of children within the school, which we update yearly. We do this by asking parents/carers if their child is diagnosed as asthmatic or has been prescribed a reliever inhaler. When parents/carers have confirmed that their child is asthmatic or has been prescribed a reliever inhaler we ensure that the pupil has been added to the asthma register and has:

- an up-to-date copy of their personal asthma action plan
- their reliever (salbutamol/terbutaline) inhaler and a spacer in school
- permission from the parents/carers to use the emergency salbutamol inhaler if they require it and their own inhaler is broken, out of date, empty or has been lost

Asthma Lead & Champion

This school has an Asthma Lead who is named above. It is the role of the Asthma Lead to facilitate the resources required to implement and maintain the school's Asthma Friendly Status. These resources include the provision of time for staff to complete required training and implement the Asthma Friendly Schools programme.

This school has an Asthma Champion who is named above. The Asthma Champion has attended specific Asthma Champion training provided by the Frimley Health Respiratory Nursing Team and continue to attend yearly training updates. It is the responsibility of the Asthma Champion to implement the Asthma Friendly School programme. Including management of the asthma register, update the asthma policy, manage the emergency salbutamol inhalers (please refer to the Department of Health Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools, March 2015) ensure measures are in place so that children have immediate access to their inhalers.

Medication and Inhalers

All children with asthma should have immediate access to their rescue devise, salbutamol (usually blue) or their Symbicort Turbohaler (white and red) at all times. The reliever inhaler is a fast-acting medication that opens up the airways and makes it easier for the child to breathe. (Source: Asthma UK).

Some children may have a Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) Symbicort Turbohaler. This inhaler is taken morning and night as a preventer inhaler and used as needed to relieve symptoms rather than the blue salbutamol inhaler.

Some children will also have a preventer inhaler, which is usually taken morning and night, as prescribed by the doctor/nurse. This medication needs to be taken regularly for maximum benefit. Children should not bring their preventer inhaler to school as it should be taken regularly as prescribed by their doctor/nurse at home. However, if the pupil is going on a residential trip, we are aware that they will need to take the inhaler with them so they can continue taking their inhaler as prescribed. (Source: Asthma UK)

Children are encouraged to carry their rescue inhaler as soon as they are responsible enough to do so. We would expect this to be by Years 5 and 6. However, we will discuss this with each child's parent/carer and teacher. We recognise that all children may still need supervision in taking their inhaler.

For all children, rescue inhalers are kept in the classroom in a green drawstring bag near the classroom door.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils however many children have poor inhaler technique or are unable to take the inhaler by themselves. Failure to receive their medication could end in hospitalisation or even death. Staff who have had asthma training and are happy to support children as they use their inhaler, can be essential for the well-being of the child. If we have any concerns over a child's ability to use their inhaler, we will refer them to the school nurse and advise parents/carers to arrange a review with their GP/nurse. Please refer to the medicines policy for further details about administering medicines. (Source: Asthma UK).

Asthma Action Plans

Asthma UK evidence shows that if someone with asthma uses personal asthma action plan they are four times less likely to be admitted to hospital due to their asthma. As a school, we recognise that having to attend hospital can cause stress for a family. Therefore, we believe it is essential that all children with asthma have a personal asthma action plan to ensure asthma is managed effectively within school to prevent hospital admissions. (Source: Asthma UK). Those who have a Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) Symbicort Turbohaler should have a MART Asthma Action Plan.

The action plans are reviewed annually, usually at the start of each academic year or periodically when there are changes made by the parent /carer or a healthcare professional/GP.

Staff Training

Staff will need yearly asthma updates. This training can be provided by the school nursing team or accessed online via Education for Health Supporting Children's Health and Young People with Asthma (educationforhealth.org). We aim to ensure a minimum of 85% of staff complete this.

School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definitive no-smoking policy. Pupil's asthma triggers will be recorded as part of their asthma action plans and the school will ensure, where possible, that pupils will not come into contact with their triggers.

We are aware that triggers can include:

- Colds and infection
- Dust and house dust mite
- Pollen, spores and moulds
- Feathers
- Furry animals
- Exercise, laughing
- Stress
- Cold air, change in the weather
- Chemicals, glue, paint, aerosols
- Food allergies
- Fumes and cigarette smoke (Source: Asthma UK)

As part of our responsibility to ensure all children are kept safe within the school grounds and on trips away, a risk assessment will be performed by staff. These risk assessments will establish asthma triggers which the children could be exposed to and plans will be put in place to ensure these triggers are avoided, where possible.

Exercise and Activity

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All staff will know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school will be aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register. (Source: Asthma UK) Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all activities.

It is agreed with PE staff that pupils who are mature enough will carry their inhaler with them and those that are too young will have their inhaler labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. (Source: Asthma UK).

Fire or Other Evacuation

In the event of a fire or other evacuation at school, the emergency asthma kit should be taken from the school office in case inhalers are required. The emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by children:

- Who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a reliever inhaler
- OR who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler
- **AND** for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given.

When Asthma is Affecting a Pupil's Education

The school are aware that the aim of asthma medication is to allow people with asthma to live a normal life. Therefore, if we recognise that if asthma is impacting on their life a pupil, and they are unable to take part in activities, tired during the day, or falling behind in lessons we will discuss this with parents/carers, the school nurse, with consent, and suggest they make an appointment with their asthma nurse/doctor. It may simply be that the pupil needs an asthma review, to review inhaler technique, medication review or an updated Personal Asthma Action Plan, to improve their symptoms. However, the school recognises that Pupils with asthma could be classed as having disability due to their asthma as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and therefore may have additional needs because of their asthma.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler in School

As a school we are aware of the guidance 'The use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools from the Department of Health' (March, 2015) which gives guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools (March, 2015).

We have two emergency kits with two spacer devices each, depending on the age of the child, which are kept in the Medical Cupboard in the School Office so it is easy to access by all members of staff.

Each kit contains:

- A salbutamol metered dose inhaler
- At least two spacers compatible with the inhaler
- Instructions on using the inhaler and spacer
- Instruction on cleaning and storing the inhaler
- Manufacturer's information
- A checklist of inhalers, identified by their batch number and expiry date, with monthly checks recorded
- A note of the arrangements for replacing the inhaler and spacers
- A list of children permitted to use the emergency inhaler
- A record of administration

(This policy has been adopted from a policy provided by NHS Foundation Trust Frimley Health)

We understand that salbutamol is a relatively safe medicine, particularly if inhaled, but all medicines can have some adverse effects. Those of inhaled salbutamol are well known, tend to be mild and temporary are not likely to cause serious harm. The child may feel a bit shaky or may tremble, or they may say that they feel their heart is beating faster.

We will ensure that the emergency salbutamol inhaler is only used by children who have asthma or who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler, and for whom written parental consent has been given.

The school's asthma lead and team will ensure that:

- On a monthly basis the inhaler and spacers are present and in working order, and the inhaler has sufficient number of doses available.
- Replacement inhalers are obtained when expiry dates approach.
- The plastic inhaler housing (which holds the canister) has been cleaned, dried, and returned to storage following use, or that replacements are available if necessary.
- Before using a salbutamol inhaler for the first time, or if it has not been used for 2 weeks or more, shake and release 2 puffs of medicine into the air.
- Any puffs should be documented so that it can be monitored when the inhaler is running out. The inhaler has 200 puffs, so when it gets to 50 puffs having been used we will replace it.
- The spacer can be reused, after each use it will be dismantled and washed in hot soapy water using a soft cloth, it will be left to air dry then reassembled. The inhaler can also be reused. Following use, the inhaler canister will be removed, and the plastic inhaler housing and cap will be washed in warm running water, and left to dry in air in a clean safe place. The canister will be returned to the housing when dry and the cap replaced.
- Spent inhalers will be returned to the pharmacy to be recycled.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by children:

- Who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a reliever inhaler
- OR who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler
- **AND** for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given.

The name(s) of these children will be clearly written in our emergency kit(s). The parents/carers will always be informed in writing if their child has used the emergency inhaler, so that this information can also be passed onto the GP.

EMERGENCY ASTHMA PLAN FOR SCHOOLS

Asthma Attack

For children diagnosed with Asthma/Wheeze

SIGNS OF:

Wheezing
Coughing
Shortness of Breath

Treatment





GIVE UP TO 10 PUFFS OF RESCUE INHALER (BLUE)

OR

UP TO 6 INHALATIONS OF MART (WHITE AND RED) TURBOHALER AT A SINGLE TIME

Number of puffs needed of **BLUE** inhaler :

2- 6 PUFFS

OR

Number of inhalations needed of your **MART** device:

Take 1 inhalation of your **MART** device, wait a few minutes and repeat if necessary, up to a total of 6 inhalations.

Tell a member of staff

If better no further action required

Number of puffs needed of **BLUE** inhaler:

6- 10 PUFFS

OR

You can take up to 6 inhalations of your **MART** device.

Tell a member of staff

Parents to be called and child to be collected and seen by medical professional the same day.

If little or no improvement after 10 puffs of BLUE inhaler:

Dial 999

Continue to give **BLUE** inhaler 10 PUFFS every 15 minutes until medical help arrives or symptoms improve.

OR

If you have taken 6 inhalations of your **MART** device and your symptoms have not improved or used your maximum daily inhalations, seek urgent help.

*****If their own RESCUE inhaler is NOT AVAILABLE, please use the school's emergency inhaler kit *****

(This policy has been adopted from a policy provided by NHS Foundation Trust Frimley Health)

HOLYPORT CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	
ADOPTED AND SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ON: 22nd January 2025	SIGNATURE OF GOVERNING BODY REPRESENTATIVE: *P Mew*
Name of Headteacher: Amanda Featherstone	Signature of Headteacher: *A Featherstone*
	Policy to be next reviewed: September 2025 or in light of any changes

(This policy has been adopted from a policy provided by NHS Foundation Trust Frimley Health)