



## PIMPERNE PRIMARY SCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a 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, Physical Education, science, educational visits and (out of hours activities) extra curricular activities otherwise it excludes walks etc in the school day
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- 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 (list on staff allergy board)

### Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. All inhalers are kept in the medical area and can be accessed by all staff.

It is advised that the, parent/carer provides the school with a labelled, in date reliever inhaler. These are kept in the school office. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name.

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. The phone call will be logged on the pupil's Asthma Information Form (reverse side 'For Office Use' box). Further conversations may be appropriate, at the discretion of the school.
- Treat the child, if we are aware the child suffers from asthma, with an in date inhaler.

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.

### 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 records. 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.

Should a child have to use their inhaler, more than twice in a school day, parents will be notified by text message.

### **Exercise and activity – Physical Education and games**

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including P.E. 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 can be obtained from the medical area by the office. Children are trusted to independently or peer supported travel to the office and request their inhaler (unaccompanied).

### **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**

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the school procedure:

- Encourage the pupil to use their inhaler
- Summon a first aider, (initially Mrs McCarthy, Mrs Brealey) who will bring the pupil's Asthma Information Form and will ensure that the inhaler is used according to the dosage on the form
- If the pupil's condition does not improve, the First Aider will follow the 'Emergency asthma treatment' procedures – see 'red' sheet
- The First Aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition
- If there is any doubt about a pupil's condition an ambulance will be called and a parent will be informed.
- If the child were to lose consciousness whilst waiting for an ambulance, the staff will follow the Dr ABC technique.

### **Access and Review of Policy**

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

Dear Parent/Carer

## Asthma Information Form

Please complete the questions below so that the school has the necessary information about your child's asthma. **Please return this form without delay.**

CHILD'S NAME ..... Age ..... Class.....

1. Does your child need an inhaler in school? Yes/No

2. Please provide information on your child's current treatment. (Include the name, type of inhaler, the dose and how many puffs? Do they have a spacer?)

.....  
.....

3. What triggers your child's asthma?

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It is advised to have a spare inhaler in school. Spare inhalers may be required in the event that the first inhaler runs out, is lost or forgotten. Inhalers must be clearly labelled with your child's name and must be replaced before they reach their expiry date.

I agree to ensure that my child has in-date inhalers and a spacer (if prescribed) in school.

Signed:..... Date.....

I am the person with parental responsibility

Circle the appropriate statements

- My child requires a spacer and I have provided this to the school office
- My child does not require a spacer
- I need to obtain an inhaler/spacer for school use and will supply this/these as soon as possible

4. Does your child need a blue inhaler before doing exercise/PE? If so, how many puffs?

.....

5. Do you give consent for the following treatment to be given to your child as recognised by Asthma Specialists in an emergency?

- Call parent/carers or message to say Emergency treatment is taking place now
- Give **6 puffs of the blue inhaler via a spacer**
- Reassess after 5 minutes

- If the child still feels wheezy or appears to be breathless they should have a further **4 puffs of the blue inhaler**
- Reassess after 5 minutes
- **If their symptoms are not relieved with 10 puffs of blue inhaler then this should be viewed as a serious attack:**
- **CALL AN AMBULANCE and CALL PARENT**
- **While waiting for an ambulance continue to give 10 puffs of the blue reliever inhaler every few minutes**

Yes/No

Signed:..... Date.....

I am the person with parental responsibility

Please remember to inform the school if there are any changes in your child's treatment or condition.

Thank you

**Parental Update** (only to be completed if your child no longer has asthma)

My child ..... no longer has asthma and therefore no longer requires an inhaler in school or on school visits.

Date

For office use:

Signed

I am the person with parental responsibility

	Provided by parent (Yes/No)	Location (delete as appropriate)	Expiry date	Date of phone call requesting inhaler/spacer	Date of letter (attach copy)
1st inhaler					
2nd inhaler					
Advised					
Spacer (if required)					
Record any further follow up with the parent/carer:					

# Emergency asthma treatment

## Asthma attacks & wheeziness

Signs of worsening asthma:

- Not responding to reliever medication
- Breathing faster than usual
- Difficulty speaking in sentences
- Difficulty walking/lethargy
- Pale or blue tinge to lips/around the mouth
- Appears distressed or exhausted
  
- Call parent/carer and inform them of treatment proceeding
- Give 6 puffs of the blue inhaler via a spacer
  
- Reassess after 5 minutes
  
- If the child still feels wheezy or appears to be breathless they should have a **further 4 puffs of the blue inhaler**
  
- Reassess after 5 minutes
  
- **If their symptoms are not relieved with 10 puffs of blue inhaler then this should be viewed as a serious attack:**
  
- **CALL AN AMBULANCE and CALL PARENT**
  
- **While waiting for an ambulance continue to give 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler every few minutes**

Review date: September 2019

Next review: September 2021