



St Anne's RC Primary

'We Grow Together in God's Love'

Asthma and Allergy Policy

Mission Statement

We grow together as a Catholic Faith Community, as we follow and promote Gospel values in all we do. We grow together in wisdom, as we encourage each child to achieve their full potential, academically, spiritually and socially and in a spirit of confidence. We grow together in respect, friendship and responsibility, as we reach out to those in our wider community.

We Grow Together in God's Love.

What is the Rationale of this policy?

At St Anne's Primary School, our aim is to help child learn and be safe. Our Asthma and Allergy policy sets out how we care for those children in our care who have a diagnosis of asthma or an allergy.

Headteacher: Mrs A Wainwright

Allergy Lead: Mrs A Wainwright

Asthma Lead: Mrs Holt/Mrs Spiller

School Nursing team: 0161 740 4324

Asthma

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,
- ✓ asthma leads
- ✓ all pupils with immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times,
- ✓ all pupils have an up-to-date asthma action plan – parental responsibility
- ✓ an emergency salbutamol inhaler
- ✓ ensure all staff have regular asthma training,

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 via the contact forms. 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 in school
- permission from the parents/carers to use the emergency salbutamol inhaler if they require it if their own inhaler is broken, out of date, empty or has been lost via the contact form

Asthma Leads

This school has asthma leads who are named above. It is the responsibility of the asthma leads to manage 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 reliever (usually blue) inhaler 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 will also have a preventer inhaler, which is usually taken at home, 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 but parents will need to sign medical form – see medical policy (Source: Asthma UK).

For all children, reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom in a clear box in the classroom stock cupboard

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)

The emergency inhalers will be taken out at break time and lunch time.

Staff training

Staff have regular Asthma training delivered by the school nurse.

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. Staff will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so. (Source: Asthma UK)

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in and outside of school. The same rules apply for out of hours sport as during school hours PE. (Source: Asthma UK)

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).

As a school we are able to purchase salbutamol inhalers and spacers from community pharmacists without a prescription.

We have 2 emergency inhalers in school.

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 schools asthma lead and team will ensure that:

- On a regular 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

These symptoms are usually responsive to the use of the child's inhaler and rest (e.g. stopping exercise). As per Department of Health document; they would not usually require the child to be sent home from school or to need urgent medical attention.

Asthma Attacks

The school recognises that if all of the above is in place, we should be able to support pupils with their asthma and hopefully prevent them from having an asthma attack. However, we are prepared to deal with asthma attacks should they occur.

All staff will receive an asthma update annually, and as part of this training, they are taught how to recognise an asthma attack and how to manage an asthma attack.

The department of health Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools (March 2015) states 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)

If the child is showing these symptoms we will follow the guidance for responding to an asthma attack recorded below. However, we also recognise that we need to call an ambulance immediately and commence the asthma attack procedure without delay if the child:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| *Appears exhausted | *is going blue |
| *Has a blue/white tinge around lips | *has collapsed |

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the emergency action plan:

- Stay calm and reassure the child.
- Help the child to sit comfortably and encourage slow, deep breaths.
- Administer the reliever inhaler as prescribed.
- If symptoms do not improve after 5-10 minutes, call for emergency medical assistance (999) and notify the Headteacher.

References

- Asthma + Lung UK School Policy Guidelines.

- Department of Health (2015) Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhaler in schools
- Department for Education (DfE) Guidance on Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

Allergy Policy

Identification of Allergies

- **Disclosure:** Parents/guardians **must** inform the school of any known allergies when enrolling their child via contact form
- **Allergy Register:** A central register of children with allergies will be maintained and updated regularly.

Management of Allergies

- **Risk Assessment:** For children with significant allergies (e.g., nut allergies), a risk assessment in consultation with parents, outlining specific management strategies and this is shared with all staff and review at least annually
- **Emergency Medication:** Children with severe allergies must have access to emergency medication (e.g., EpiPen) at all times. Staff will be trained in its use.
- **At breaktimes/lunchtimes:** A member of staff will take the children's Epi Pens outside in case of emergencies

Food Safety

- **Labelling:** All food provided by the school will be clearly labelled with allergen information.
- **Lunches and Snacks:** Parents/guardians will be encouraged to provide allergen-free lunches and snacks for children with allergies. We operate as a nut free school

Communication

- **Awareness:** Regular reminders about asthma and allergy management will be communicated to staff, children, and parents through newsletters and meetings.
- **Signage:** Clear signage will be displayed in the school regarding asthma and allergy management areas and emergency medication locations.

Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually or following any significant incident to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.

Conclusion

The health and safety of all children at St Anne's RC Primary School is our top priority. By implementing this Asthma and Allergy Policy, we aim to create a supportive and safe environment for all.

Appendix 3: Inhaler expiration date

Inhaler Expiration Dates

Name	Expiration date	Checked by	Date checked	Date checked	Date checked	Date checked	Date checked	Date checked

Appendix 4:

At breaktimes and lunchtimes a member of staff will take out the emergency inhaler and spacer