



Longwood Primary School

Asthma Policy

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, the governing body and pupils.

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

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, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with information leaflets on asthma attacks, asthma in PE and what to do when a child with asthma joins their class.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom in a specified area.

Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler.

School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own asthma medication when they need to or will assist them to do so.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has any medical conditions – including asthma – and this information is written on the child's Data Information Sheet. All parents of children with asthma are given a National Asthma Campaign school card to give to their child's GP or asthma nurse to complete and return to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is available to all school staff. Cards are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changed in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. PE teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. 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 and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints over five minutes before the lesson. Each child's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a



Longwood Primary School

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 or will be aided by a teaching assistant or the office staff.

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.

Making the school asthma friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in key stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from our web site www.asthma.org.uk.

When a child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure:

- a) In KS1 send the child to the first aid person and ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately. In KS2 the child is to administer the reliever inhaler immediately.
- b) Stay calm and reassure the child
- c) Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened
- d) Treat in relation to the agreed care plan.

After the attack: minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The child's parent must be told about the attack.

Emergency procedure

If:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

call an ambulance and then inform parents.



Longwood Primary School

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Acts of Parliament;

Human Rights Act
Equal Opportunities
Disability Discrimination Act

See Appendix 1 – General Risk Assessment 12 – Administration of Drugs and Medicines

Dear Parent

The School Asthma Card

I am pleased to advise you that this school takes its responsibilities to pupils with asthma very seriously. With advice from the Department for employment and Education, the National Asthma Campaign, the local authority, the school health service and the governing body, we have recently established a new School Asthma Policy to use by all staff.

As part of accepted good practice, we are now asking all parents of pupils with asthma to help us to complete a School Asthma Card for their son/daughter. Please take this card to your doctor/nurse for completion and return it to the school office as soon as possible.

The completed card will have details of the pupil's current treatment and also what steps to take if they should have an asthma attack at school. The card will help school staff to ensure that pupils with asthma receive the best possible treatment at all times.

The School Asthma Card should be updated regularly by the doctor/nurse, stating whether or not the treatment has changed.

I look forward to receiving the completed card. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Yours sincerely
Mrs P James