



CASTLEFIELD SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

Signed (HT):

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Date agreed: Term 2 2024

Signed (Chair of GB):

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Review date: Term 2 2025

Castlefield School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma. We ensure that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life.

This is achieved through:

- Ensuring that children have access to asthma inhalers as needed.
- Keeping a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- Creating a whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, that is favourable to pupils with asthma.
- Helping all pupils to understand asthma as a medical condition.
- Making sure that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Working in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, Local Authority, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Asthma Medicines

Castlefield School has clear guidance on the administration of medicines at school – please see Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy. In an emergency situation, school staff are required under common law duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent. This may include administering medicines.

Every asthmatic child should have an inhaler in school at all times. Each inhaler provided by parents/carers for pupils to use must be within date, named and prescribed with an appropriate pharmacy label.

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers of children are kept in their green asthma bag, located on the classroom door. These boxes are accessible at all times of the extended school day.

Where a child is judged to be mature enough to self-medicate, they are allowed to do so and are taught to record and inform the teacher should they use their inhaler.

The school undertakes to inform parents/carers if we believe a child is having problems taking their medication correctly. We will also discuss with parents/cares if we feel that there are signs of poorly controlled asthma, or if the child's inhaler usage changes.

From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines Regulations 2014 allows schools to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.

The emergency inhaler can only be used if either of the pupil's inhalers are not available (for example, because they are empty or broken). To avoid possible risk of cross infection, the plastic spacer is not to be re-used and will be sent home with the child (for future personal use).

Use of the emergency salbutamol inhaler will be recorded in the School Emergency Inhaler Log Book and parents/carers will be informed.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions (including asthma) on their emergency contact form.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are then required to complete an asthma questionnaire, from which the school is able to maintain its centralised asthma register and class medical information document, which is available to all school staff. An identified member of staff has responsibility for the register at this school. The responsible member of staff follows up any of the details on a pupil's asthma questionnaire.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers 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.

Education in another part of the School and off-site Educational Visits

It is the teacher in charge of the class's responsibility to ensure that the class bag of inhalers is always taken with the class if they are working in a different part of the school e.g. P.E. in the hall/field, Computing in the ICT suite or when off site.

School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. For example, the school does not keep furry or feathered animals and has a definitive no smoking policy. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.

Asthma attacks

In the event of an asthma attack, the school follows the procedure outlined by the Department of Health in its publication 'Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools'. This procedure is visibly displayed in the medical room.

Documents relating to the record keeping of the use of asthma medication can be found here:
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