



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Asthma Policy

Document Control

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Reviewed by:	Rena Miras-Pye	Sign and Date:	
Authorised by:		Sign and Date:	

Related Documents/Policies

Reference	Title
	Medical Needs Policy
	First Aid Policy
	Educational Visits Policy

Rena Miras-Pye (SENCO) is responsible for reviewing and updating this procedure.

AIMS

The school aims to:

1. Encourage and support all students who have asthma to participate fully in all aspects of the life of the school.
2. Work towards ensuring the environment is favourable to students with asthma so we will:
 - avoid keeping pollinating plants in the class room or playground areas.
 - Avoid mowing sporting fields and grass areas during school hours.
 - Consider the option of indoor PE/games activities on days with a high pollen count.
 - Avoid leaving windows open during thunderstorms.
3. Inform parents/carers of our expectation that they will give appropriate information to the school regarding their child's asthma and to provide a prescribed reliever inhaler (blue inhaler) and spacer device (if required).
4. Inform students of the procedure for gaining immediate access to their reliever inhaler.
5. Keep records of all students with asthma and the medication they take.
6. All teaching and support staff are asthma aware and have training bi-annually provided by a healthcare professional. All staff have completed training on September 4th 2017.
7. Provide opportunities so that all students can develop their understanding of asthma.
8. Work in partnership with all interested parties including the schools governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, employers of school staff, doctors, nurses and students to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained.

ON ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL

1. At the beginning of a school year or when a student joins the school all parents/carers will be asked to complete an admission form giving full details of their son's asthma, regular medication, triggers, emergency contact numbers, family GP and any relevant hospital details. We will also ask parents to complete an Asthma Action Plan (see appendix 2)
2. All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma Card to give to their son's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers will be asked to return the form to school. From this information school will keep its' asthma register, which is available to all school staff. School asthma cards are then sent to parents/carers on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers will also be given a consent form for the use of an emergency inhaler.
 - Every student with an asthma diagnosis must have a BLUE reliever inhaler available in school and in date.
 - An emergency Salbutamol inhaler is available in school and will only be used by students:
 - who have been diagnosed with asthma, and prescribed a reliever inhaler;
 - OR who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler;
3. Parents/carers should inform the school if there are any changes in their child's asthma or medication.

SAFETY AND STORAGE OF ASTHMA INHALERS

1. Reliever inhalers should be carried by the student. A spare inhaler, clearly labelled with the student's name will be held in the first aid room at the main school site.
2. Parents will be notified by First Aid Officer or Deputy First Aid officer if the spare or emergency reliever has been used during the school day.
3. The emergency inhaler will only be used if the student's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example it is broken or empty) and parental/carer consent held.
4. The emergency inhaler kit will be checked:
 - Monthly to check inhaler and spacers are present and in working order, and inhaler has sufficient number of doses available.
 - that replacement inhalers are obtained when expiry dates approach;
 - replacement spacers are available following use; to avoid possible risk of cross-infection, the plastic spacer will not be reused but will be given to student to take home for future personal use.
 - the plastic inhaler housing(which holds the canister) has been cleaned, dried and returned to storage following use.
5. It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure medication is in date and replenished as necessary. The school First Aider will check medication each term/half term and parents will be contacted if medication is out of date.
6. Inhalers will not be stored where there is excessive heat or cold.

EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY

Students with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE/games and other in school extra-curricular activities.

The school will encourage all students with asthma to use the reliever inhaler before exercising.

Reliever inhalers must be readily available at all times, including all off site activities.

Be aware of children and young people whose asthma is triggered by scented deodorants and perfumes so ensure changing rooms are well ventilated

ATTENDANCE

1. If it is thought that asthma may be affecting the student's academic progress or attendance then the parent/carer will be asked to attend an asthma review appointment at the G.P surgery.
2. The school may also ask for the advice and support of the school Health Nurse and the Asthma Clinical Specialist.

ASTHMA ATTACK

1. In the event of an asthma attack school staff should follow the procedure outlined in appendix 1 below
2. Parents will be informed that their child has had an asthma attack as soon as possible.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

Medical Needs Policy

First Aid Policy

Educational Visits Policy

APPENDIX 1

What to do in an asthma attack

- Keep calm
- Encourage the child or young person to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- Child/young person to take two puffs of reliever inhaler, usually blue, or more if prescribed.
- Loosen tight clothing
- Reassure the child

If there is no immediate improvement

- Continue to administer one puff of reliever inhaler every 30 to 60 seconds up to a maximum of 10 puffs
- You can repeat the above if the ambulance is taking longer than 15 minutes to arrive.

Call 999 urgently if:

- There is no improvement in symptoms within 5-10 minutes
- The child or young person is too breathless or exhausted to talk.
- The child or young person's lips are blue
- You are in doubt.

Important things to remember

- Never leave a pupil having an asthma attack
- Bring the medication to the child, not the child to the medication
- Reliever medication is very safe
- Call a paramedic ambulance if no improvement in symptoms or if you are in doubt
- Contact parents/carers