



ST LAURENCE CHURCH
JUNIOR SCHOOL

Asthma Policy

Date of Publication: April 2024

To be reviewed: April 2026

(To be reviewed on a two year cycle)

'Learning, Loving and Sharing, guided by Jesus'

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

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, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. 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, pupils and their parents. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of this policy. All teachers are provided with asthma training on a regular basis. This training is provided by the School Nursing Service and also covers Severe Allergic Reactions, Epilepsy and Asthma.

Medication

Access to a reliever inhaler is vital. All inhalers will be kept within a sealed container in a clear place within their classroom and these will be transported to outdoor lessons or when the child leaves school for a school trip. If a child leaves the classroom to go to another classroom, the inhaler will remain in the registration classroom. Children should always tell their class teacher or first aider when they need to use their inhaler. Records are kept each time an inhaler is used (please see Appendix 1).

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. 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 medication under supervision when needed.**

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a School Asthma Card (Asthma UK) (Appendix 2) and return it to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is displayed in the staff room and first aid room. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school.

St Laurence Church Junior School holds an emergency inhaler and spacer as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015. This medication can only be administered to children on the Asthma Register. Staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler.

Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by a named member of staff (Mrs D Rose – First aider). Each child's inhaler is kept within their classroom in a clear place.

As part of the training, staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All this information is found in a child's personal record in the school office.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. 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 if needed. A box with all the inhalers within the class will be brought out to each PE lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. Records are kept every time a child uses their inhaler.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school is part of The Dog Mentor programme so there is often a dog on school site. However, rigorous cleaning will take place wherever the dog has been and parents have the right to withdraw any child from interactions with the animal – the school will also spot and quickly adapt should any interactions cause a spike in symptoms.

The site has a non-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science or art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the reflection area if any particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stage 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 the following website 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 nursing team to see if any further support can be offered.

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, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

1. **Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**
2. **Stay calm and reassure the child.**
3. **Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened and is seated in an upright position.**

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 parents must be informed about the attack.

Emergency Procedure

If the pupil does not feel better or you are worried **at any time** before reaching 10 puffs from the inhaler, **call 999 for an ambulance.**

If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes, give an additional 10 puffs as detailed above.

In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's parents or carers should always be contacted.

In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they should always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer is present.

Appendix 1



Record of Inhaler Administration

This form is used by class teachers to report use of an inhaler. This gets sent to the school office – parents are then informed using the communication app and a copy of this is put in the child's file.

Child's Name	
Date given	
Time given	
Number of puffs given	
Name / Role of member of staff	
Staff Signature	
<i>Any Additional Comments</i>	

Appendix 2 (copy of an original)

School Asthma Card

To be filled in by the parent/carer

Child's name

Date of birth DD MM YY

Address

Parent / carer's name

Telephone - home

Telephone - mobile

Email

Doctor/nurse's name

Doctor/nurse's telephone

This card is for your child's school. **Review the card at least once a year and remember to update or exchange it for a new one if your child's treatment changes during the year.** Medicines and spacers should be clearly labelled with your child's name and kept in agreement with the school's policy.

Reliever treatment when needed

For shortness of breath, sudden tightness in the chest, wheeze or cough, help or allow my child to take the medicines below. After treatment and as soon as they feel better they can return to normal activity.

Medicine	Parent/carer's signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If the school holds a central reliever inhaler and spacer for use in emergencies, I give permission for my child to use this.

Parent/carer's signature Date DD MM YY

Expiry dates of medicines

Medicine	Expiry	Date checked	Parent/carer's signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Parent/carer's signature Date DD MM YY

ASTHMA QUESTIONS?

Ask our respiratory nurse specialists.
Call 0300 222 5800
WhatsApp 07378 606 728
(Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm)
AsthmaAndLung.org.uk

What signs can indicate that your child is having an asthma attack?

Does your child tell you when they need medicine?

Yes No

Does your child need help taking their asthma medicine?

Yes No

What are your child's triggers (things that make their asthma worse)?

Pollen Stress

Exercise Weather

Cold/flu Air pollution

If other please list

Does your child need to take any other asthma medicines while in the school's care?

Yes No

If yes please describe

Medicine	How much and when taken
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Date's card checked

Date	Name	Job title	Signature / Stamp
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

To be completed by the GP practice

Actions to take if a child is having an asthma attack

1. Help them to sit up – don't let them lie down. Try to keep them calm.
2. Help them take one puff of their reliever inhaler (with their spacer, if they have it) every 30 to 60 seconds, up to a total of 10 puffs.
3. If they don't have their reliever inhaler, or it's not helping, or if you are worried at any time, **call 999 for an ambulance.**
4. If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes and their symptoms are not improving, repeat step 2.
5. If their symptoms are no better after repeating step 2, and the ambulance has still not arrived, **contact 999 again immediately.**

