



Asthma Policy

The academy:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art, PE, science, educational visits and out of hours activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take
- Endeavours that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and know the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor/asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. Until then the reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom or medical room (inhalers kept in the medical room rather than the classroom are at the specific request of the parent).

It is advised that the academy is provided with a labelled, in date spare reliever inhaler. These are held in case the pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten and are kept in the medical room. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent.

If a parent has stated that their child requires an inhaler in the academy but does not supply an **in-date inhaler**, the academy will take the following action:

- Phone the parent and request that the inhaler is brought into the academy without delay. The phone call will be logged on the pupil's medical file. Further conversations may be appropriate, at the discretion of the academy.
- If the parent fails to supply the inhaler as requested, the academy will write to the parent using the example letter. This repeats the request for the inhaler and states that without the inhaler, in the event of an asthma attack, staff will be unable to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services. The letter will be filed with the child's asthma information form.

Academy staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the academy when acting in agreement with this policy. All staff will facilitate pupils to take their medicines when they need to.

For information on how to clean spacers please go to www.asthma4children

Record keeping

When a child joins the academy, parents are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within the academy, for the academy's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are given an asthma information form to complete and return to the academy. From this information the academy keeps its asthma records. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the academy about any change in their child's medication or treatment.

Exercise and activity - PE and games

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down

Academy Environment

The academy endeavours to ensure that the academy environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The academy will take into consideration, any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibility of exposure to these triggers.

Asthma Attacks - the academy's procedure

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the academy procedure:

- Encourage the pupil to use their inhaler
- Summon a first aider who will bring the pupil's medical information and will ensure that the inhaler is used according to the dosage on the form
- If the pupil's condition does not improve or worsens, the First Aider will follow the 'Emergency asthma treatment' procedures
- The First Aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition
- If there is any doubt about a pupil's condition an ambulance will be called

Access and Review of Policy

The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school's website. Hard copies can be obtained from the academy office. This policy will be reviewed on a two yearly cycle.

Signed (Chair of Governors) Signed
(Headteacher)

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Emergency asthma treatment

Asthma attacks & wheeziness

Signs of worsening asthma:

- Not responding to reliever medication
 - Breathing faster than usual
 - Difficulty speaking in sentences
 - Difficulty walking/lethargy
 - Pale or blue tinge to lips/around the mouth
 - Appears distressed or exhausted
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- Give **6 puffs of the blue inhaler (via a spacer if supplied by parent)**
 - Reassess after 5 minutes
 - If the child still feels wheezy or appears to be breathless they should have a further **4 puffs of the blue inhaler**
 - Reassess after 5 minutes
 - **If their symptoms are not relieved with 10 puffs of blue inhaler then this should be viewed as a serious attack:**
 - **CALL AN AMBULANCE and CALL PARENT**
 - **While waiting for an ambulance continue to give 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler every few minutes**

Appendix 2

Example letter to send to a parent who has not provided an in-date inhaler. Please amend as necessary for the individual circumstances.

Dear [Name of parent]

Following today's phone call regarding [Name of pupil]'s asthma inhaler, I am very concerned that an inhaler has not been provided. You have stated on [name of pupil]'s Asthma Information Form that [name of pupil] requires an inhaler in school and you have agreed to provide an inhaler [and spacer]. Please ensure that:

- an inhaler
- a spacer

are provided without delay.

If [name of pupil] no longer requires an inhaler, please request his/her Asthma Information form from the school office and complete the parental update section.

Please be aware that in the absence of an inhaler, should [name of pupil] suffer an attack, staff will not be able to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures. They will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services.

Yours sincerely