



ASTHMA POLICY

Schools within the Forest Edge Learning Federation recognise that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children. We welcome all pupils with asthma and ensure that they can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out of hours school activities.

This is achieved through:-

- Ensuring that children have access to their reliever medication immediately when needed
- Keeping a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take as well as known triggers
- Creating a whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational that is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Helping pupils to understand asthma as a medical condition
- Making sure that all 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, staff, school nurse, parents/carers, local authority, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has been written following advice from the Department for Education and Employment, Asthma UK and the local education authority.

ASTHMA MEDICINES

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The children's reliever inhalers are kept in class, but are taken with the children when they leave the classroom. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler which is kept in the school office.

If this is used for any reason i.e. class inhaler runs out, or is out of date, it will trigger the office to call parents to ask for another spare.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency); however, many of the staff at this school is happy to do this. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicine (if they are capable) when they need to.

RECORD KEEPING

When children enrol at school their parents/carers are asked if they have any medical conditions.

There is an expectation that parents inform school as soon as possible of any changes to their child's medical needs. Any child who is registered as having asthma is sent an asthma plan at the beginning of the year. A copy of this personal asthma plan is given to the child's class teacher, and one is kept in the school office.

Parents/carers are also asked to update school if their child's asthma plan needs to be updated for example if their medication or the amount taken changes. If a child uses

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their inhaler in school it will be recorded and any irregularities are reported to parents/carers, for example if their child needs to take their asthma relief more than is usual for them.

EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY – PE

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 and will have an asthma plan for them.

The children's reliever medication must be taken with them when taking part in PE or any other physical activity. The children will be encouraged as they get older to take more control in remembering their medication.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise (as indicated in their asthma plan) to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson.

If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

OFF SITE SPORT, SWIMMING AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The health benefits of exercise are well documented. Asthma inhalers are taken off site and are kept by the leader of the group when the child participates in swimming, sports, activities and educational visits. A copy of the child's asthma plan to be kept in the bag with medication.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Forest Edge Learning Federation does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. 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. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the school office where they can be closely monitored, if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

IF A PUPIL IS FALLING BEHIND IN LESSONS

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. Parents may be asked to access a medical review from their Doctor. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator about the pupil's needs. We recognise that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma.

ASTHMA ATTACKS

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma will follow that child's asthma plan in the event of an asthma attack. The procedure in an emergency is also visibly displayed in the First Aid areas.

GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL ABOUT CHANGES
IN A CHILD'S CONDITION, MEDICATION OR CARE IS VITAL AND UNDERPINS THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS POLICY

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Appendix 1

**Consent Form:
Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler**

Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler (delete as appropriate)
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which is kept at school.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, *I do/ *do not consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

*please mark as appropriate

Signed: Date:

Name: (print)

Child's Name:

Class:

Parent's address and contact details:

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Telephone:

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E-Mail:

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