

Moss Hey Primary School

Asthma Policy



Agreed: Summer 2015

Review: Summer 2018

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/ carers, the governing body and pupils.

Moss Hey School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers (the local education authority) parents and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff that come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse. Training is updated once a year.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to:

- Carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough.
- The reliever inhalers of children in this school are kept in a clearly marked plastic box readily accessible to the children in their classroom.
- All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

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 by letter or on the enrolment form for children new to the school.
- The named first aiders, class teachers and other adults working with the child closely e.g. teaching assistants are informed of the child's needs.
- A list of all children with asthma is maintained in the classroom.

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 and teaching assistants are informed which children in their class have asthma
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE 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.
- It is agreed with the staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

- Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

When 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. If appropriate, the headteacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

Asthma attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom.

Out-of-hours sport

- There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.
- PE teachers, classroom teachers and out-of –hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All staff are provided with training from the school nurse, who has had asthma training.

School environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. There is 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 if particular fumes trigger their asthma. The school does have chickens but we are very aware of the children who have asthma and allergies, and act accordingly. If pets are brought in as part of a topic, then thorough research is done beforehand to ensure children with asthma and/or allergies are not disadvantaged.

Making the school asthma-friendly

- The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma. Asthma can be included in the National Curriculum Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

Roles and Responsibilities

Employers

Employers have a responsibility to:

- ensure the health and safety of their employees (all staff) and anyone else on the premises or taking part in school activities (this includes pupils). This responsibility extends to those staff and others leading activities taking place off site, such as visits, outings or field trips.

Employers therefore have a responsibility to:

- ensure that an appropriate asthma policy is in place
- make sure the asthma policy is effectively monitored and regularly updated
- report to parents/carers, pupils, school staff and local health authorities about the successes and failures of the policy
- provide indemnity for teachers who volunteer to administer medicine to pupils with asthma who need help.

Head teachers

Head teachers have a responsibility to:

- plan an individually tailored school asthma policy with the help of school staff, school nurses, local education authority advice and the support of their employers
- plan the school's asthma policy in line with devolved national guidance
- liaise between interested parties – school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, governors, the school health service and pupils
- ensure the plan is put into action, with good communication of the policy to everyone
- ensure every aspect of the policy is maintained
- ensure that each parent has access to a copy of the asthma policy via the school website
- assess the training and development needs of staff and arrange for them to be met
- ensure all supply teachers and new staff know the school asthma policy
- regularly monitor the policy and how well it is working
- delegate a staff member to check the expiry date of spare reliever inhalers and maintain the school asthma register
- report back to the local education authority about the school asthma policy.

School staff

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- understand the school asthma policy
- know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma
- know what to do in an asthma attack (Appendix A)
- allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
- tell parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack
- tell parents/carers if their child is using more reliever inhaler than they usually would
- ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
- ensure pupils who have been unwell catch up on missed school work
- be aware that a pupil may be tired because of night-time symptoms
- keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying
- liaise with parents/carers, the school nurse and special educational needs coordinators or Learning Support & Special Educational Needs Department if a child is falling behind with their work because of their asthma.

PE teachers

PE teachers have a responsibility to:

- understand asthma and the impact it can have on pupils. Pupils with asthma should not be forced to take part in activity if they feel unwell. They should also not be excluded from activities that they wish to take part in if their asthma is well controlled
- ensure pupils have their reliever inhaler with them during activity or exercise and are allowed to take it when needed
- if a pupil has asthma symptoms while exercising, allow them to stop, take their reliever inhaler and as soon as they feel better allow them to return to activity. (Most pupils with asthma should wait at least five minutes)
- remind pupils with asthma whose symptoms are triggered by exercise to use their reliever inhaler immediately before warming up
- ensure pupils with asthma always warm up and down thoroughly.

School nurses

School nurses have a responsibility to:

- help plan/update the school asthma policy
- if the school nurse has an asthma qualification it can be their responsibility to provide regular training for school staff in managing asthma
- provide information about where schools can get training if they are not able to provide specialist training themselves.

Individual doctor/asthma nurse of a child or young person with asthma

Doctors and asthma nurses have a responsibility to:

- ensure the child or young person knows how to use their asthma inhaler (and spacer) effectively
- provide the school with information and advice if a child or young person in their care has severe asthma symptoms (with the consent of the child or young person and their parents/carers)
- offer the parents/carers of every child a written personal asthma action plan.
- Every young person should also be offered a written personal asthma action plan themselves.

Pupils

Pupils have a responsibility to:

- treat other pupils with and without asthma equally
- let any pupil having an asthma attack take their reliever inhaler (usually blue) and ensure a member of staff is called
- tell their parents/carers, teacher or PE teacher when they are not feeling well
- treat asthma medicines with respect
- know how to gain access to their medicine in an emergency
- know how to take their own asthma medicines.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- tell the school if their child has asthma
- inform the school about the medicines their child requires during school hours

- inform the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities such as school team sports
- tell the school about any changes to their child's medicines, what they take and how much
- inform the school of any changes to their child's asthma (for example, if their symptoms are getting worse or they are sleeping badly due to their asthma)
- ensure their child's reliever inhaler (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their name
- ensure that their child's reliever inhaler and the spare is within its expiry date
- keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school
- ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed
- ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor or asthma nurse (every six to 12 months)

Appendix A

Asthma Attack Advice

1. Take one to two puffs of your reliever inhaler (usually blue), immediately.
2. Sit down and try to take slow steady breaths.
3. If you do not start to feel better continue to take two puffs of your reliever inhaler every two minutes, take up to ten puffs.
4. If you do not feel better after taking your inhaler as above or if you are worried at any time – call 999 .
5. If an ambulance does not arrive within 15 minutes repeat step 3 while you wait.

If your symptoms improve and you do not need to call 999, you still need to see a doctor or asthma nurse within 24 hours.

Please note: this asthma attack information is not designed for people using a Symbicort inhaler on the Symbicort SMART regime. If you are on the Symbicort SMART regime please speak to your doctor or asthma nurse about this.

Asthma UK asthma attack advice 4th October 2010
Advice changed to sit in line with the 2009 BTS/SIGN guidelines.
asthma.org.uk