

Mersey Park Primary **Asthma Policy**



Background

Mersey Park Primary 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 and pupils.

Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma. Training is updated once a year.

New members of staff are made aware of the Asthma policy and receive appropriate training.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom in individually named plastic boxes. These are taken on school trips and to outdoor lessons.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler and spacer and to make sure the inhaler is in date.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however all staff at this school are trained 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 on their enrolment form.

Children who have severe asthma and require to take an inhaler before exercise will have a Health Care Plan in school.

Parents are kept informed if their child uses their inhaler in school by receiving a phone call or a note home and inhaler use is recorded on a form kept in class first aid boxes.

Following Department for Health guidance (September 2014) school will buy an emergency salbutamol inhaler and will follow the procedures described in the guidance. In this way we can ensure we can help a child who has an asthma attack if their inhaler is either not in school or is out of date. The inhaler would

only be administered in an emergency situation, by trained staff,, following the Department for Health guidance.

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 know which children in their class have asthma.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons and 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 staff and sports coaches 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.

Out-of-hours sport

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 and sports coaches are provided with asthma training.

School environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma by;

- not keeping furry or feathery animals
- having a definitive no-smoking policy
- As far as possible, not use chemicals that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.
- Making reasonable adjustments in response to information received from parents/carers regarding individual pupils.

Supporting the learning needs of children with Asthma

Inline with the schools Teaching and Learning policy, the school will ensure that the learning needs of all pupils are met.

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 teacher 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 following training.

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MERSEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher
Mrs M.A. Thomas

November 2014

Dear Parents/Carers

Emergency Inhaler

As the parents/carers of a child with asthma, I am writing to you following new Department for Health guidance (September 2014).

In line with our Asthma policy, the children's reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom in individually named plastic boxes. These are taken on school trips and to outdoor lessons. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler and spacer and to make sure the inhaler is in date.

The new guidance now allows school to buy extra '**emergency**' salbutamol inhalers and spacers to be kept in a central place. These are only to be used in an emergency situation, when the child's own inhaler is not available.

The guidance states,
"Keeping an inhaler for emergency use will have many benefits. It could prevent an unnecessary and traumatic trip to hospital for a child, and potentially save their life. Parents are likely to have greater peace of mind about sending their child to school."

We require written consent from parents/carers in order to be able to use the emergency inhaler. Please complete and return the attached form as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs M.Thomas
Headteacher