



Asthma Policy

<u>Review Programme:</u>	
Policy adopted:	Summer 2022
Date for next review:	Summer 2024
Signed – Headteacher:	Lawrence Lee

SKETCHLEY HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA AT SCHOOL POLICY

Sketchley Hill Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the School. Asthma is the most common respiratory disorder of young children. It typically presents with wheeze, dry cough, difficulty in breathing and/or chest tightness. It is recognised that acute asthma is a relatively common paediatric emergency and it remains necessary to respond to and treat acute asthma as severe until proven otherwise, and in severe cases the School will always refer children who respond inadequately for treatment to a hospital via the emergency services.

Sketchley Hill Primary School adopts a positive approach to the management of asthma and encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life. Staff will work with parents, pupils and health professionals in the daily management of pupils with asthma and will ensure that procedures used are clear and understood by all.

If a child is taken seriously ill during the school day with an asthma attack the First Aider will always request that a 999 ambulance is called for in the first instance, this will be followed by a call to the child's parents/carers.

Sketchley Hill Primary School:

- Ensures all pupils respect the needs of children with asthma.
- Children with asthma will be encouraged to take responsibility for the management of their own asthma condition.
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.
- Ensures that pupils with asthma 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.
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- Ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma.
- Has a register of qualified First Aiders present on site who have been trained in all aspects of paediatric first aid, including the presence and management of asthma and associated conditions.
- Holds a spare inhaler which is kept in the School Office for emergency use if required. Parental permission must be obtained for use of the emergency inhaler.

Record Keeping

- At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the School, parents are asked if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma. This information must be stated on the enrolment form.
- All parents of children with asthma are consequently sent a **School Asthma Record Sheet** for completion. Parents are asked to return this to the School.
- The information is then recorded on the School's Asthma Register.
- New Asthma Record Sheets are sent out annually at the start of the academic year.
- Parents also have a responsibility to update or exchange the sheet for a new one if their child's medicines or how much they take, changes during the year. (Please note that even if medication is normally taken only at home, the School still requires the completed Asthma Sheet.)

PE Games and Activities

- 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 be fully aware of the needs of the condition when organising their lessons.

Asthma Medication

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child is provided with the necessary medication at all times during the school day and that the medication remains current.

- All pupils must put their named reliever inhaler in the class box. The box will be clearly labelled 'Asthma Medication'. Staff will ensure pupils have access to their reliever inhalers at all times. Inhalers will be taken outside by a staff member when taking part in structured learning activities (eg PE) and during residential visits.

During lunch hours, the 'Asthma Medication' box will stay in the allocated class area. Staff will ensure that Lunchtime Supervisors are made aware of where the 'Asthma Medication' box is kept.

- All inhalers and spacers must be labelled with child's name by the parent.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

Pupils with Asthma

- Reliever inhalers and spacers need to be clearly labelled with child's name and class and state 'Asthma Medication'.
- At the beginning of each Autumn term an Asthma letter and Record sheet will be sent for completion to the parents of children with Asthma. These must be returned immediately.
- Parents are responsible for checking the expiry dates of their child's reliever inhaler on a regular basis and for ensuring that the medication provided to school is current.



SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Asthma Policy and Procedures

Please find attached a copy of the School's Asthma Policy and Procedures. Please spend some time reading through this information.

If your child has been diagnosed with asthma it is essential that medication is available in school. Please note that even if your child only takes asthma medication at home, you are still required to complete and return an Asthma Medication Record.

If however, your child suffers from 'seasonal asthma' as a result of winter colds or summer hay fever for example, then please still complete the enclosed form but highlight that medication will NOT be required in school.

If you need to discuss this matter further, please contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Lawrence Lee
Headteacher