



ASTHMA POLICY

1.0 Introduction

What is Asthma

Asthma is a common, chronic, variable (symptoms can appear and disappear quickly) condition, which affects the airways.

The airways become inflamed, swollen and narrow easily in response to a wide variety of trigger factors making breathing difficult (examples of triggers include colds & flu, stress & anxiety, exercise, weather, pet fur and house dust mites).

Asthma affects approximately 1 in 7 school age children.

2.0 Principles

Goodmayes Primary School

- Recognises that asthma is an important and potentially serious condition affecting many school age children.
- Welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- Recognises the potential impact asthma can have on a pupil emotionally, physically and educationally.
- Recognises that immediate access to inhalers is vital.
- Keeps records of pupils with asthma and the medication they take.
- Ensures all staff that come into contact with children with asthma recognise the symptoms of an asthma attack, know what to do in the event of an asthma attack and when to call for medical assistance.
- Will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma.
- Participate in projects that advocate wider favourable environmental issues for pupils and staff such as clean air initiatives.
- Make provision for catch up interventions for pupils who have sustained periods of absence due to asthma.
- Will encourage and help pupils with asthma to participate fully in all aspects of school life including sport and PE.
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that other pupils understand asthma.



3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Redbridge LA

- Provides indemnity for teachers and other school staff who volunteer to administer medication to pupils with asthma who need help.
- Ensures the health and safety of pupils with asthma by having an asthma policy which is implemented within its schools which is reviewed and updated annually.
- Supports its schools in setting up care plans for pupils with brittle or severe asthma via the School Nurse Service.

3.2 School

- Will hold a register of pupils with asthma and ensure parents / carers to complete the Medical History Questionnaire and Parental Consent Form before starting school (to be completed as part of the Admission/Induction process). 'My Asthma Plan' to be reviewed by the school/parents annually.
- Will ensure key school staff are aware of asthmatic pupils within the school and where possible, the individual's trigger factors.
- Will inform parent/carer if a pupil has an asthma attack.
- Will take the appropriate emergency measures for dealing with an asthma attack as outlined in the annual staff training session.
- Will communicate any concerns school staff may have to parents/carers about their child's asthma care.
- Will complete a care plan in partnership with the school nurse, for pupils identified as having severe or brittle asthma.
- Will ensure that other pupils with less severe asthma have a 'My Asthma Plan'
- Will ensure all staff have been provided with the opportunity to partake in basic training concerning asthma, which is updated annually.
- Will display the information provided, outlining the management of an asthma attack, in designated agreed areas within the school.
- Will take reasonable steps to reduce potential trigger factors influencing asthma within the school environment, e.g. classroom, plants and pets.
- Will ensure that asthmatic children participating in PE or going off the school site for activities or school trips take their inhalers with them.
- Apply measures (following NHS guidance) to safeguard children in situations out of the ordinary e.g. Coronavirus.



- Will ensure pumps are stored in a safe and accessible place (class medical box/medical room) and remind parents if they are due to expire or are lost/broken. The Medical Administrator is responsible for monitoring the contents of the medical boxes.

From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2014 have allowed schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies.

In the event of a pupil needing to use the emergency inhaler, school:

- Will have written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler.
- Will ensure the emergency inhaler is only used by children with symptoms of asthma and with written parental consent for its use.
- Will keep a record of the use of the emergency inhaler as required by 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions'.
- Will inform parents / carers that their child has used the emergency inhaler and why (e.g. their child's own inhaler was missing / broken / empty / expired).
- Will keep a copy of the register of pupils with asthma, with the emergency inhaler.
- Will sterilize the emergency inhaler after use.

4.0 Redbridge Primary Care Trust / Children's Trust

- Ensure that school nurses have access to training on asthma care to equip them with the skills and knowledge to provide support, education, and training for school/nursery staff, pupils, and parents on asthma care.
- The school nurse is provided with the necessary resources to support the training of school staff (leaflets/ PowerPoint presentations).
- The school nurse will check all completed returned questionnaires and identify those who require a care plan, and in partnership with the school and the parent arrange a suitable date to set up the care plan in school. (This is for brittle or severe asthma. Others can get an Asthma Plan from their GP).
- The school nurse will work in partnership with parents, pupils, head teachers, school staff and other key healthcare professionals as required.

4.1 The Pupil with Asthma

- Where possible, should know how and when to take their reliever inhaler (blue).
- Should know how and where to access their inhaler at all times. They are stored in class medical boxes which are accessible at playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Should inform a member of staff if he/she becomes unwell at school.
- Should care for their inhaler in a safe manner.



4.2 The Parent

- Must inform the school if their child is asthmatic and obtain a 'My Asthma Plan' from GP or Asthma Clinic.
- Should complete the ~~asthma~~ Medical History questionnaire and return it to the school office.
- Must inform the school of any relevant changes to their child's asthmatic status or changes to medication and renew their My Asthma Plan with the school annually.
- Must complete the school's Parental Consent form (which also includes consent for the use of the emergency inhaler).
- Should ensure one reliever inhaler (blue) in the original packaging (unopened) has been supplied to the school, with the child's full details clearly labelled on the pharmacy label.
- Must ensure their child's inhaler in school is in date, in good condition and replaced as and when necessary.
- Must communicate any concern about their child's asthma care in school to the head teacher, class teacher or Medical Administrator as soon as possible.

5.0 Related School Procedure

- Policy on Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions
- **Appendix 1:** Consent to Administer Medication form
- **Appendix 2:** Medical History Questionnaire

References

- Asthma UK
- National Asthma Campaign
- DfE 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions'
- DfE 'Managing Medicines in School & Early Year Settings'
- Department of Health 'Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools'

Policy date: Spring Term 2023

Review date: Spring Term 2024 (or earlier if necessary)