



## **St Marys CE Primary School**

### **Asthma Policy**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals and the schools health service.

St Marys CE Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils in schools. St Marys positively welcomes all pupils with asthma and encourages all pupils to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by staff and pupils.

#### **Access to 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 and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of young children are kept in the classroom.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a spare, labelled reliever. This is to be kept in the locked first aid cupboard in case the pupils own inhaler is lost/forgotten/runs out.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils, however in an emergency, staff should act as any prudent parent would, which may include giving medicine. School staff who do administer medicines in agreement with this policy are insured by the local education authority. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicine 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 – see appendix 1.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma card for completion and return to the school. This information forms the Asthma register, which is available to all school staff.

#### **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 and all

PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupil's asthma from the asthma register.

- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE lesson and to do a thorough warm up and cool down before and after 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.

### **School Environment**

- The school does everything it can to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. We have a definitive no-smoking policy and as far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.

### **When a pupil falls 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 teacher will then talk to the SENCO 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. Staff will do what a 'reasonable parent' would do in the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- For mild attacks, children should take their inhalers, as per instructions.
- For severe attacks, a metered dose inhaler should be used. Encourage relaxation. If the child does not: feel better within 5 – 10 minutes/ is distressed and/or exhausted/ is unable to talk in sentences/ has blue lips/or you have any doubts, then the action required is: dial 999 for an ambulance/continue to give relief inhaler while assistance arrives/ inform parents of the situation and actions taken/record incident in Asthma register.

**APPENDIX 1****Asthma Record (Care Plan)**

Surname .....

First Name .....

My child's details and contact numbers:

Date of Birth .....

Parent(s) name(s) .....

Telephone Home ..... Work .....  
Mobile .....

Doctor (GP) name .....

Doctor (GP) telephone .....

Asthma nurse .....

Known triggers/allergies .....

Any other medical problems? .....

**My Child's Medication**

Reliever medication (usually blue)

Medication name (e.g. SALBUTAMOL)	Device (e.g. diskhaler)	Dose (e.g. 1 blister)	When taken (e.g. when wheezy, before exercise)

**Other Medication**

Most preventers can be taken outside of school hours – check with your GP or asthma nurse

Medication name	How taken/device	Dose	When taken

**Emergency Treatment**

In the event of a severe asthma I am happy for my child to receive up to 10-20 puffs of their reliever inhaler via a spacer until they get further medical help.

Signed: (Parent) ..... Date .....

**Key points for parents to remember:**

This record is for your school. Remember to update it if treatment is changed. Remember to check you have enough inhaler doses and that the inhaler is in date and labeled by the pharmacist with your child's name and dosage details.

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The section below is to be completed by school staff

Has this child got a healthcare plan for any other condition?

Yes  (discuss with school nursing staff)

No

Asthma record checked by asthma link person (Name) .....

Any concerns to be discussed with school health advisor/school nurse:

Record of discussion: Signature/Date: