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Asthma Policy



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Statement of Vision and Values

In consultation with pupils, parents, governors, community members and staff our vision and values were generated based on our inspiration from the Parable of the Sower and how this links to our children and their journey with us.

Our School Vision:
Within our community we strive to develop deep roots, strong growth and freedom to flourish as a unique and whole child of God.

Matthew 13 - The Parable of the Sower – '… but the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. …….produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."





Values

We decided at St James CE Primary School that Kindness and Respect are values which we feel underpin our vision and are incorporated in all we do and say – so therefore these two values will be taught alongside all the other six values we have chosen.

½ termly focus	Value
Autumn 1	Responsibility
Autumn 2	Friendship
Spring 1	Perseverance
Spring 2	Trust
Summer 1	Courage
Summer 2	Positivity

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St James' CE School Asthma Policy

Asthma is a condition that affects small tubes (airways) that carry air in and out of the lungs. When a person with asthma comes into contact with something that irritates their airways (an asthma trigger), the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten so that the airways become narrower and the lining of the airways becomes inflamed and starts to swell. Sometimes, sticky mucus or phlegm builds up, which can further narrow the airways. These reactions make it difficult to breathe, leading to symptoms of asthma (Source: Asthma UK).
As a school, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition. St James' CE Primary School aims to support pupils with Asthma to participate fully in school life. We endeavour to do this by ensuring that:

- all pupils have access to their reliever inhaler at all times,
- all pupils have an up-to-date Asthma Individual Health Care Plan,
- records of children with Asthma and the medication they take are in place
- a school emergency reliever inhaler is accessible, if consent given,
- staff have regular Asthma training,
- Asthma awareness is promoted amongst pupils, parents and staff,
- children with Asthma can participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE,
- the school environment is favourable to children with Asthma,
- we work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff,

  parents/carers, school governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.

If Asthma is impacting on the life of a pupil, and they are unable to take part in activities or falling behind in lessons we will discuss this with parents/carers, and suggest they make an appointment with their Asthma nurse/doctor. The school recognises that pupils with Asthma could be classed as having disability due to their Asthma as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and therefore may have additional needs because of their Asthma.
This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, the local education authority and the new documentation the 'Enfield Asthma Approach', the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils

Medication and Inhalers

All children with asthma have access to their reliever (usually blue) inhaler at all times. Reliever inhalers are stored in the Medical/First Aid Room with a record of administration sheet.
Some children will also have a preventer inhaler, which is usually taken morning and night, as prescribed by the doctor/nurse. Children should not bring their preventer inhaler to school. However, if the pupil is going on a residential trip, they may need to take the preventer inhaler with them and the parent/carer will be asked to complete appropriate forms.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils, however where a child has poor inhaler technique, or is unable to take the inhaler by themselves, a member of staff may support children as they use their inhaler. If we have any concerns over a child's ability to use their inhaler we will advise parents/carers to arrange a review with their GP/nurse.
St James' CE Primary School keeps two emergency reliever inhalers. These will only be used by children whose parent/carer has given written permission for the school emergency inhalers to be used.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents and carers are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. From this information the school keeps its Asthma Register which is displayed in the staff room and medical/first aid room. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carers to inform the school.
St. James' CE Primary School does hold an emergency reliever inhaler and spacer as per 'Guidance on the Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools' March 2015. This medication can only be administered to children on the Asthma Register. Specific staff have been trained to administer the school emergency reliever inhaler. Parents and Carers of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the school emergency reliever inhaler to be used in the event that their own reliever inhaler is not available. See Appendix 1 attached. Parents and Carers will be informed by phone or text if the school emergency reliever inhaler has been used. Asthma reliever inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by our Welfare Officer. Each child's reliever inhaler is kept in the medical/first aid room in a named wallet containing their individual medication and Asthma Individual Health Care Plan. All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All this information is found in their medication wallet along with their medication.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have Asthma from the Asthma Register. Children with Asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose Asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Each child's reliever inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the side of the lesson. If a child needs to use their reliever inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. Records are kept every time a child uses their reliever inhaler. Staff sign the medical administration form.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their reliever inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times.

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School Environment

St James' CE Primary School does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with Asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with Asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the outside area if particular fumes trigger their Asthma.

Roles and responsibilities

Asthma Leaders	Lisa Everard (Head of School)
	Ella Tona (Welfare Officer)

The role of the Governing Body

- The Governing Body has general responsibility for all school policies
- To ensure the school does all it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with Asthma, for example a definitive no smoking policy

The role of the Head of School

- to implement the Governing Body's policy
- to ensure there is a mechanism in place for informing parents/carers of the school policy and procedures regarding children with Asthma
- to ensure all staff are aware of the policy and follow agreed procedures
- to provide adequate training for all staff who have agreed to take on an active role in administration of Asthma medication
- to ensure a process is in place by which children can have access to reliever inhalers at all times
- to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma and that asthma triggers are minimised where possible.

The role of the Welfare Officer/Administration Assistant

- maintaining an accurate list of children who have been diagnosed with Asthma, ensuring that any changes to their Individual Health Care Plans are reflected on the school MIS
- to develop children's Individual Health Care Plans in liaison with parents/carers and ensure it is updated as required
- to oversee children using reliever inhalers, supporting them where necessary according to their age and capability
- ensure all asthmatic children have a reliever inhaler in school that is in date and full by conducting regular checks and reminding parents to bring replacements before expiry date is reached
- maintain a log of children with Asthma who have permission to use the school emergency reliever inhalers
- ensure school emergency reliever inhalers are in date and full and order replacements as necessary

- to inform other staff who may need to be aware of a child's requirements such as sports coaches or trip leaders and to advise on the development of risk assessments for specific activities

The role of classroom teachers/school staff

- to familiarise themselves with the Individual Health Care Plans and triggers for any asthmatic children in their class/work group/club and carry out risk assessments if appropriate
- if leading a trip or visit, to ensure they have the child's reliever inhaler and school emergency reliever inhaler for use if parent/carer consent given
- to encourage children to participate fully in all school activities including PE and sport
- support children to recognise their own Asthma symptoms

The role of parents/carers

- to notify the school of an Asthma diagnosis when applying for or being offered a school place or as soon as possible once the child is on roll
- to complete any and all documentation required by the school regarding the child's Asthma and keep the school updated in writing about any changes in the child's Asthma symptoms or triggers
- to ensure their child has an in-date, full reliever inhaler in the school in the original container bearing the name and class of the child
- to cooperate with the school's policy and procedures
- to collect and dispose of any expired reliever inhalers in an appropriate manner.
- support the school to encourage the child to take responsibility for their own Asthma management as appropriate to the age, understanding and capability of the child.

The role of the pupil

- to contribute to their own Asthma management, according to their age, understanding and capability
- to approach school staff if their symptoms need immediate attention
- the school will encourage pupils to manage their own medication as soon as possible, although always with supervision.

Symptoms and attack procedure

Common 'day to day' symptoms of Asthma

- dry cough
- wheeze (a 'whistle' heard on breathing out) often when exercising
- shortness of breath when exposed to a trigger or exercising
- tight chest

These symptoms are usually responsive to the use of the child's reliever inhaler and rest (e.g. stopping exercise), and would not usually require the child to be sent home from school or to need urgent medical attention.

Asthma attacks

- persistent cough (when at rest)
- wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)

- nasal flaring
- unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet
- may try to tell you that their chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as tummy ache)

If the child is showing these symptoms, we will follow the guidance for responding to an Asthma attack recorded below. However, we also recognise that we need to CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE immediately and commence the Asthma attack procedure without delay if the child:

- appears exhausted
- is going blue
- has a blue/white tinge around lips
- has collapsed

Asthma attack procedure

- Keep calm and reassure the child
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the school emergency reliever inhaler if parent/carer consent given
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them
    1. Shake the inhaler and remove the cap
    2. Place the mouthpiece between the lips with a good seal, or place the mask securely over the nose and mouth
    3. Immediately help the child to take two puffs of the reliever inhaler via the spacer, one at a time (1 puff to 5 breaths)
- If there is no improvement, repeat steps 1-3 up to a maximum of 10 puffs
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better
- If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANY TIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE and call for parents/carers
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way
- A member of staff will always accompany a child taken to hospital by an ambulance and stay with them until a parent or carer arrives

If a child has been treated for an Asthma attack in school, parents/carers will be informed and advised to make an appointment with the GP
If the child has had to use 6 puffs or more in 4 hours, parents should be made aware and they should be seen by their doctor/nurse.

Adopted by Governors: June 2023
Policy Reviewed bi- annually : September 2026
(or updated as required)

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APPENDIX 1
Opt out of school emergency reliever inhaler

Dear Parent/Carer

Due to a change in the law (September 2014), we are pleased to inform you that schools are now permitted to hold emergency Salbutamol/Salamol reliever inhalers.
At St. James' CE Primary School, we have reviewed our asthma procedures and now have an emergency reliever inhaler on site. This is a precautionary measure; you still need to provide your child with their own reliever inhaler and spacer as prescribed.
We would like to notify you that if you have previously informed us that your child has asthma or has been prescribed a blue reliever inhaler, we will use the school's emergency reliever inhaler in the unlikely event that their regular reliever inhaler fails to work or is missing.
If you **do not** wish for us to use the school's emergency reliever inhaler in an emergency, please fill in the details below and return the slip to the school office as soon as possible.
Please can you ensure that your child has a working in-date reliever inhaler complete with the cap and a spacer for use in school that has their name and date of birth on it. Please ensure that the reliever inhaler is in its box with the prescription label on it.
Yours sincerely,

Mrs E Tona (Welfare Officer)

Child's name: ……. Class: ……

I DO NOT consent to my child using the school's emergency reliever inhaler.

Parent/Guardian signature: ……

Date: …….