



Asthma Policy

At Patcham Junior School children are inspired to learn through our innovative and creative curriculum. We support them in their journey to become responsible members of society, able to make informed decisions about the way they work and behave.

As a school our belief is that every child deserves to succeed regardless of his or her ability and that any barriers to learning, including those which are for medical reasons, are overcome.

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.

2. This school encourages children 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 children with asthma are provided with training on asthma regularly, from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever is vital. Children's reliever inhalers are kept in the first aid bag in the classrooms and individual reliever inhalers are taken to all off site activities including PE on the field. When reliever inhalers are needed in an emergency, for example during a 'trigger' period, reliever inhalers will be available in the school office.

Reliever inhalers being held in the classroom, allows for immediate access wherever the child is working within the school at all times. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the governing body when acting in

accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. A Parental agreement for school/setting to administer medicine (Appendix A) is completed by the parent and retained in the 'Record of Medication' folder.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma. 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 and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints over five minutes before the lesson.

Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in the first aid bag which will be taken by the teacher to all PE lessons. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

The School Environment

The 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 outside the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stage 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

When a Child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms. (Appendix B)

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

The child's parents must be told about the attack.

Emergency procedure

The headteacher/appointed person should call the parents/emergency services if:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition
- If the Doctor is unobtainable, call an ambulance
- If for any reason the child stops breathing, an ambulance should be called immediately

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate

Appendix A Parental Consent Form

This form must be completed and signed by a parent/carer before prescribed medicines can be kept and/or administered in school either short or long term.

Please note: Medicines that are not prescribed cannot under any circumstances be kept in school or administered by school staff.

Child's full name	
Class	
Date of Birth	
Name of medication	
When and how often to be taken (e.g. when necessary/lunchtime/break etc.)	
Dosage	
Period medication is to be taken/kept in school (please give start and end date)	
Medication to be kept in fridge yes/no	
Can child administer medication	
Expiry date of medicine/review date	
<p>I request that the treatment be given in accordance with the above information by a responsible member of the school staff who has received any necessary training. I understand that it may be necessary for this treatment to be carried out during educational visits and other out of school activities, as well as on the school premises.</p> <p>I undertake to supply the school with the drugs, medicines or foods in properly labelled containers and keep the school informed of any material facts or information which may affect medication being given to the child. I agree to remove the medicine when it has expired or no longer needed.</p> <p>I accept that whilst my child is in the care of the school, the school staff stand in the position of the parent and that the school staff may therefore need to arrange any medical aid considered necessary in an emergency, but I will be told of any such action as soon as possible.</p>	
Name of parent /carer	Date
Signed by parent/carer	
Signed on behalf of school	

Asthma Attacks

In the event of a child having an asthma attack, the following procedure should be followed by all school staff.

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

The child's parents must be told about the attack.

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