



Asthma Policy

Harefield Infant, Nursery and
Children's Centre

Spring Term 2018

AIMS:

Every child with asthma has the right to immediate access to their emergency relief inhaler.

1. To help and encourage children to manage their daily asthma needs independently, but with adult supervision as appropriate.
2. To ensure that all staff and parent helpers are able to assist/deal with any child who has an asthma attack.
3. To maintain a training programme so as to keep staff aware of any new developments in asthma management and to educate any new members of staff. All staff should therefore feel confident through training to supervise children taking inhalers (with a volumatic spacer) to encourage a correct technique.
4. All staff shall feel confident through training to supervise children taking inhalers to ensure correct technique.

DAILY MANAGEMENT:

- a) **Schools responsibility** all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack and children have access to their inhalers.
- b) **Parental responsibility** all parents and children who have been diagnosed with asthma must inform the school of this and provide two inhalers, with spacers, must sign an asthma card and consent form which can be obtained from school.

There are two kinds/types of treatment and both medications are taken in the form of an inhaler.

MEDICATION:

Preventative (brown) inhalers should not be brought into school.

Relievers these are used when signs of breathlessness are experienced. They are usually blue, and must always be used with a spacer. With the exception of exercise induced asthma no child should need their reliever regularly in school. In the case of exercise induced asthma the child should use their inhaler 15 minutes prior to exercise.

Relief inhalers: One inhaler, with spacer, is kept in the medical room, clearly labelled with the name of the child, date of expiration and dosage. A second inhaler is kept in the child's classroom. It is contained in the clearly labelled medical box. All these boxes should be in clear view nothing is to be placed on the boxes, this ensuring easy access for adults ready to give the prescribed dose.

All inhalers accompany the children when they leave the school premises e.g. school trips, visits to the library and school walks etc.

Inhalers and other medication are taken out in the event of a fire and during fire drills in individual class medical boxes.

Any child who asks to use their inhaler will always be allowed to do so.

Any child who has used their inhaler during the day will have an asthma note sent home detailing the amount given, the time given and who administered the medicine. This will also be recorded in the asthma book; this is located in the medical room.

If a child is experiencing breathing difficulties, ask another member of staff to get the welfare to come and help or send a sensible child to locate the welfare, in the meantime administer the inhaler as instructed.

The welfare officer shall relay any concerns to the school liaison asthma nurse or school nurse. An annual asthma audit will be conducted with the school nurse and the welfare officer.

FIRST AIDERS:

All staff that have a first aid certificate have been trained to assist with asthma management.

All staff have one asthma awareness training session a year this will be taught by the school nurses. The welfare will also attend a half day training session given by the lead respiratory asthma, anaphylaxis nurse from Hillingdon Hospital.

There is always at least one first aider on the school premises at all times.

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISION:

SMSAs are made fully aware of children who have asthma and where inhalers are kept. They will also have full asthma training annually and receive regular updates.

Harefield Infant School takes its responsibilities toward children with asthma seriously and expects them to be able to reach their full potential. The school will work in conjunction with the parents. If it is felt that a child requires a care plan then an individual plan will be written specifically for that child.

It is important for parents to ensure that they provide the school with an inhaler and that they are in date, this is the parents responsibility. Parents/carers can sign consent for the use of an emergency inhaler with the understanding that this is for an emergency only. If a child starts school and they have been prescribed an inhaler, then we will ensure that an asthma card has been filled in. Attached

to this document will be the consent to use the emergency asthma inhaler. The welfare officer will keep an accurate record detailing the expiry date of all the inhalers; this will help to give parents an early warning that their child's inhaler is reaching its expiration date.

The school will ensure that at all times the child has access to their inhaler, but should they be without an inhaler they shall have no option but to telephone for an ambulance, as they are unable to administer another child's medication. Please read and sign that you have understood the policy.

EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL PACK:

New regulations came into force on the 1st October 2014. They advised that schools may store emergency inhalers and spacers. These inhalers can only be used by:

- Children who have had an inhaler prescribed to them for Asthma or any other medical need.
- Only if the child's parent has given written consent.

An emergency register will be stored in the emergency packs, along with a salbutamol inhaler and a spacer. If any child cannot have salbutamol then an alternative inhaler will be stored (this will mainly be if a child has had an allergic reaction to salbutamol. Hospital or GP will advise). The school will store three emergency kits; one will be stored with the emergency kit which is in the main office. The second will be stored in the medical room and the third will be stored in the nursery.

The expiry dates of the emergency inhalers will be stored in the asthma log. This is kept in the medical room and will be checked every half term to ensure that they are in excellent working order. The volumatics will be clearly labelled as belonging to the school.

If a child uses an emergency inhaler within school, it must be documented in the asthma log as emergency inhaler. The parent/guardian will also be contacted on that same day either by letter or phone. Following along with the guidelines the volumatic spacer will be sent home with the child. This is to reduce the spread of infection, the school will then replace the volumatic spacer.

An emergency pack should go on all school trips.

Signed: _____

Head of School

Signed: _____

Chair of Governors