



Discovery Primary Academy

Asthma Policy

This policy has been written with advice from Asthma UK, local healthcare professionals and the governing body.

School Philosophy:

- At Discovery Primary Academy we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children at the school.
- We welcome pupils with asthma and ensure that they can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life.
- We recognise that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.
- Discovery Primary Academy keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- We ensure that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment is favourable to pupils with asthma.
- We aim to ensure that all pupils with asthma understand their condition.
- We ensure that all staff know what to do in the event of a child having an asthma attack.
- Discovery Primary Academy understands that children with asthma may have an increased risk of suffering from bullying and is extra vigilant in these cases.
- We aim to work in partnership with all parties including children, parents, the governing body, all academy staff, the school nurse, doctors, and nurses to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Asthma Medicines:

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The inhalers are kept in the child's class or may be in the child's draw in upper key stage 2.
- Parents/carers are asked to check their child's inhalers termly to ensure that they are not out of date and are working correctly.
- All inhalers are labelled with the child's name.
- School staff generally do not administer inhalers (except in an emergency) except for some smaller children who struggle to use them independently. This is discussed with parents/carers and staff are aware of those children who need support.
- School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their medicines when they need to.

Record Keeping:

- At the beginning of the school year or when a pupil joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their admissions form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK Asthma Card to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. These are then returned to school. Using this information the school keeps an 'Asthma Register' which is available to all school staff. These cards are updated annually by parents/carers. Parents/Carers are asked to update the information if there are any changes during the year.

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.

- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Staff will remind any pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

After School Clubs:

- All children regardless of medical conditions are able to access our after school clubs and extra –curricular activities.
- Staff ensure that all adults involved in after school clubs are aware of children suffering from asthma.

Pupils with asthma and absence from school:

- 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 parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and SENCO about the pupils needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for a pupil with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma.

Roles and Responsibilities

- All staff have a responsibility towards all pupils including those with asthma. It is their responsibility to ensure the child has access to an inhaler at all times, including during trips, playtimes, residential visits etc.

The Head Teacher /HLTA/TA;

- should ensure that the policy is implemented and updated annually,
- keep an up to date asthma register,
- provide asthma cards for all pupils with asthma,
- should liaise with external agencies e.g. school nurse,
- will assess the training and development needs of staff and arrange for them to be met,

Academy Staff will;

- have read the asthma policy,
- know which pupils that they come into contact with have asthma,
- know what to do in an asthma attack,
- allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler,
- tell parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack,
- tell parents/carers if their child is using their reliever inhaler more than they usually would,
- ensure that pupils have their inhalers in school or when on an academy trip,
- ensure pupils who have been unwell have an opportunity to catch up on missed school work,
- be aware that a pupil may be tired because of night time symptoms,
- keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying,
- liaise with parents/carers, the school nurse and SENCO if a child is falling behind with their work because of their asthma.

Parents Will;

- ensure that their child's medication is in school at all times,
- ensure that the medicine is in date and will be aware of the used by date,
- take the medicine home each half term and check the used by dates and wash any relevant equipment.
- Will check that the medicine is dispensing appropriately.

Pupils Will;

- treat other pupils with and without asthma equally,
- let any pupil having an asthma attack take their reliever inhaler (usually blue) and ensure that a member of staff is called,
- tell their parents/carers or teachers when they are not feeling well,
- treat asthma medicines with respect,
- know how to gain access to their medicine in an emergency,
- know how to take their own asthma medicines.

Policy adopted Spring 2015

Policy reviewed Summer 2018

Next review Summer 2020