

Earlsmead Primary School

Asthma Policy

Policy summary	How as a school we support children who have Asthma.
Affects	Staff, Volunteers, Pupils, Parents, Carers & Governors
Drafted by	Andrea Varga in consultation with Sarah Drummond
Status	Non-Statutory
Approved by	Headteacher
Last approved revision date	March 2022
Next review date	March 2023
Related policies, procedures and forms	Medical Needs Policy

Principles of Asthma Policy

Earlsmead Primary School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes pupils with asthma. We recognise and ensure;

Every child known to be asthmatic has to have their own inhaler, spacer and care plan in school.

The school has 3 emergency inhalers, these can be found in the School Office, Inclusion Office and the Early Years building.

- The immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital
- All care plans are signed by a health professional
- All children should use a spacer when administering their asthma pump
- No Clenil Modulate inhalers (Brown inhaler) should be kept on school premises
- All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- All that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including P.E, swimming and trips (including residential trips).
- Records are kept of children with asthma and the medication they take, including a daily log.

Designated Asthma Lead: Andrea Varga

Asthma Lead Assistant; Karolina Kolba

Medication

Asthma pumps are kept in individual, named containers in the inclusion office. Certain children's inhalers who need their inhalers more frequently, will be kept in their classrooms as well. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name and class by the parent/ carer. School staff are not expected to administer medication to children but will supervise and record when medication has been used. A member of staff will always accompany a child when he/she needs to use their asthma pump. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure their children's medication is in date.

Record Keeping

All children with asthma have a record sheet in which, each use of their medication should be recorded. The folder with the records are kept in the Inclusion Office and are easily accessible so they can be filled in by the adult supervising the use of the inhaler as soon as the medication has been used. Any child with asthma has to have a completed care plan in school which is updated annually. If medication changes during the school year, parents /carers are asked to inform the school immediately.

Text messages will be sent to Parents/Carers during the school day as and when asthma pumps are administered. Text messages are translated into 5 different languages so we are able to cover any language barriers.

Training

All staff members (SMT, teachers, support staff, SMSAs, admin) received their Asthma Training. All staff members are aware of their responsibilities. Posters listing responsibilities are placed in certain areas around the school, such as staff room, inclusion room, children centre, Early Years building. Training is to be renewed annually.

P.E

Taking part in sports is part of the school life and National Curriculum. Teachers and support staff are aware of any child suffering with asthma and will remind those whose asthma is triggered by exercise to use their reliever inhaler before a lesson. If they need to use it during a lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

Swimming / Off Site Trips

Pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 attend off site swimming lessons throughout the year at the local swimming pool. The pupils are walked to and from the site. Children with asthma must take their inhaler with them to the swimming pool or they will not be allowed to swim or go on school trips. Inhalers will be collected from the Inclusion Office by the first aider participating in the trip and will be collected and returned at the end of the trip.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children who are asthmatic know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

- Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
- Stay calm and reassure the child
- Loosen any tight clothing around the neck and chest area
- The child should be positioned in a way they feel most comfortable; the ideal position is sitting at a table leaning slightly forward with lower arms resting on the table top
- If possible fresh air should be let into the room
- If after using the inhaler to the stated amount on the care plan there is no effect, symptoms are getting worse (child becoming more agitated, unable to talk or you have real concerns);
- Call 999
- Call the child's parents / carer
- Continue reassuring the child in a calm and soothing manner
- If child loses consciousness place in the recovery position, monitor breathing call 999 again to report changes

After the Attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's school day, when they feel better they can return to normal school activities.

Older children should be reminded to inform parents they had to use their inhaler, whilst younger pupil's parents should be informed by the class teacher or teaching assistant/nursery nurse.

IN THE CASE WHERE A CHILD USES THEIR ASTHMA PUMP MORE THAN 3 TIMES A WEEK. PARENT WILL BE ADVISED BY AYESHA IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO CONTACT THEIR GP FOR THEIR CHILD'S ASTHMA TREATMENT TO BE REVIEWED.