



THE BELLBIRD PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

This Policy has been written with advice from the School Nursing team.

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

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, the Local Authority 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 from the School Nurse.

Training is updated once a year.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children are encouraged to use their inhalers independently, as soon as parents, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom in an unlocked and clearly marked cupboard or named drawer.

Parents are asked to supply an up to date care plan from the doctor or asthma nurse that is kept with the inhaler.

Each child's inhaler and care plan must be clearly named and stored in a plastic container / box.

Parents are requested to regularly check inhalers are within date, especially if children are going on a residential visit.

The Headteacher, senior teacher and the School Secretary are the only staff members who should administer medication to children.

Only trained staff can administer medication to pupils. However, in an emergency situation a member of staff can help a child with their inhaler. **All School staff will let children take their own asthma 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. All parents of children with asthma are now being given an Asthma Care Card by their asthma nurse. This card must be completed and kept along with the child's medication. School must have a copy of this information. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the School.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers need to be 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 inhalers before the lesson and ensure they have a good warm-up session. If necessary each child should bring their inhaler with them to the lesson.

If a child needs to use their inhaler they must be allowed to do so and then rest for a period of 5-10 minutes before continuing with the lesson.

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 we have a non-smoking policy. As far as possible, the children do not use chemicals in Science or Art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma.

When a Child is Falling Behind in Lessons

If a child has frequent absence from school because of asthma, is tired in class because of disturbed sleep due to asthma or is not progressing as well as expected in class due to asthma the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the School Nurse and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator about the situation. The School recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who comes into contact with children with asthma should know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

The School follows this procedure:

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately. These are normally blue. An initial two puffs of reliever is given - inhaler shaken between puffs. The child will be asked to breathe in the medication (5 - 10 breaths)
2. Stay calm and reassure the child. Listen to what the pupil is saying and to what he/she wants. Do not try to put your arms around them for comfort as this can restrict their breathing.
3. Encourage slow and deep breathing. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.
4. If the initial 2 puffs do not relieve the attack, a further set of 2 puffs can be administered.
5. In the case of an asthma attack parents will be informed of use of inhalers.

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 Procedures

Ask an adult to call an ambulance 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

Policy Created: Spring 2013

Policy Review: Spring 2016

