



## **Asthma Policy for Pupils**

### **Statement of Intent**

About one in seven children have asthma and numbers are increasing. We want to make sure that having asthma does not mean children losing out when they are at school. Most children with asthma can have a full and active life. This policy will help pupils with the management of their asthma while they are at school. This policy supplements the 'Administration of medication in school' and 'Health and Safety' policies.

### **Asthma register**

- When a child joins the school part of their admission pack is a contact form to alert the school to medical conditions including asthma needs. The return of this completed form will ensure that they are placed on the St Mary of the Angels Asthma Register (see appendix 1). The Asthma Link person, Mrs Joyce, will collate the register and also contact the parents or named responsible carer, to obtain the inhalers that will be held by the school.

### **Indemnity**

- Staff who are happy to administer medication will be provided with indemnity.
- In emergencies staff should act as any prudent parent would, which may include giving medication.
- Each inhaler provided by parents / carers for pupils to use must be within date, named and prescribed with an appropriate pharmacy label.

### **Access to Inhalers**

- Individual pupils' inhalers are kept in an air tight box in their classrooms.
- Children are allowed access to their inhalers at any time in the school day, should they feel the need to use it.
- Inhalers should accompany them when taking part in off site activities, or residential trips.
- An emergency Inhaler should be taken outside along with the register for fire drills.

### **Staff Awareness and action in asthma emergencies**

- All staff need to be able to manage attacks. Staff will do what a 'reasonable parent' would do in the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- For mild attacks children should take their usual reliever inhaler, as per instructions.
- If the child :
  - does not feel better in 5-10 minutes,
  - is distressed or exhausted,
  - is unable to talk in sentences,
  - has blue lips
  - or you have any doubts

***Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another***

then the action required is...

- one adult should stay with pupil and use reliever inhaler via spacer while another adult dials 999 for ambulance and states that the child is having a severe asthma attack requiring immediate attention.
- Continue to give relief inhaler while help arrives as per instructions on inhaler.
- Inform parents of the situation and actions taken.
- The incident should then be recorded in the Asthma register in the main office by the person who dealt with the attack, and the entry should be signed and dated by them.

**Forgotten or Lost Inhalers**

- If a child's condition does not indicate the need to dial 999 i.e. not a severe attack, contact parents to bring in inhaler or collect child. Alternatively staff can access the spare inhaler in Y1 labelled "spare inhaler" and kept on a high shelf on the right hand side of the door.
- If the child is experiencing a severe attack call 999 without delay. .

**Training**

- Head teachers are responsible for assessing and arranging for training needs to be met annually. The most recent training took place in Autumn 2017
- Posters/Leaflets which contain emergency information will be displayed at key points throughout the school.

**Home/School Liaison**

- Parents are asked to complete and update medical records on admission, and to update them annually. They are also required to update them more frequently if the condition or medication changes.
- Absence of parental consent should not stop staff from acting appropriately in emergencies.
- Parents will be informed if an inhaler is used during the day by use of a slip (see appendix 2), and the use of an inhaler will also be recorded in school, in the medical book.

**Minimising exposure to triggers**

Where possible...

- We will avoid feathery or furry school pets.
- There is a complete ban on smoking in or on the premises.

Asthma link staff – Mrs J Joyce