

# St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

## Asthma Policy for Pupils 2020

### Mission Statement

Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another.

*At St. Mary of the Angels:*

- ◆ *we aim to follow Jesus through the teaching of the Gospels and inspire each other to be Christ-like;*
- ◆ *we all work as a big team to encourage everyone to be the best that they can be, at work and at play;*
- ◆ *we create a safe, positive, fair environment where all feel respected and valued.*

### **Statement of Intent**

About one in eleven children have asthma and numbers are increasing. We want to make sure that having asthma does not mean children lose 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 Policy, Health and Safety Policy and 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' Policy.

### **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 named link staff member, Mrs. Joyce, will collate the register and also contact the parents or named responsible carer, to obtain the inhalers and spacers 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 and spacer provided by parents/carers for pupils to use must be within date, named and prescribed with an appropriate pharmacy label. It is the parents/carers responsibility to be aware of the expiry dates and replace medication when required.

### **Access to Inhalers**

- Individual pupils' inhalers are kept in a 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 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.

### **Unavailable 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, if written parental consent has been given, staff can access the spare inhaler in Y1 labelled "spare inhaler" and this is kept on a high shelf on the right-hand side of the door. A second spare inhaler is also stored in the evacuation bag located in the school office, these are safe, central locations
- If the child is experiencing a severe attack, call 999 without delay. Inform emergency services that school have a spare inhaler -if the child has no inhaler in school and no parental consent has been given to administer the spare inhaler. Emergency services will advise us accordingly if they wish school to administer the inhaler.

### **Training**

- Head teachers are responsible for assessing and arranging for training needs to be met annually. The most recent training took place in March 2020
- 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 staff completing the incident/accident slip. If the spare inhaler is administered, staff will record this clearly on the incident/accident slip.
- Some children need to be administered their inhaler before/after each PE lesson or before break-times on a regular basis, this is recorded in the 'medication administration record' and Mrs. Joyce will liaison with parents to ensure their child's needs are met.

### **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 member– Mrs. J Joyce