

## Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

St Dennis Primary Academy recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from Asthma UK. Training is updated once a year.

## Asthma Medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers of children are kept in the classroom in a basket on the teacher's desk.
- Pupils know where their medicines are at all times, and they're able to access them immediately.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by TPAT when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.
- In the event of a child not having their inhaler at school or in a medical emergency, the school holds two emergency inhalers and disposable spacers. Once an inhaler has been used it will be recorded in the asthma file and a letter will be sent to parents (Use of Emergency Inhaler).

## Record Keeping

- At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their enrolment form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent a letter and a link to an online asthma care form to complete. From this information the school keeps its asthma register and creates an asthma care plan which is available to all school staff.
- All of this information is kept in the SLT office in the Medical file. This includes a record sheet that records when the emergency asthma pump has been checked (once a month) and administered.

## 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. PE teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson if parents have requested this, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented, and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.
- Leaders of extra-curricular clubs are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. Our club register informs staff of children who have asthma.

## School Environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.
- The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma. Asthma can be included in the National Curriculum Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

## When a Pupil is Falling Behind in Lessons

- 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 the 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 Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have Special Educational Needs due to their asthma.

## Asthma Attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its School Asthma Pack. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom, office, and every classroom.

**Person responsible for policy:** Mrs Jo Waters

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