

## 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.

The school has a named Asthma Lead, Joanna Waters, who is responsible for overseeing asthma management, maintaining the asthma register, monitoring inhaler expiry dates, and liaising with parents, healthcare professionals and staff.

## Asthma Medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Inhalers are stored in a clearly labelled, easily accessible location within the classroom, known to both staff and pupils, and never locked away.
- 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). The emergency inhaler will only be used for pupils who have written parental consent and an asthma diagnosis or prescribed reliever medication.
- While many pupils use a short-acting reliever inhaler (commonly blue), some pupils may use alternative reliever or combination inhalers as part of their prescribed treatment. Staff are made aware of individual pupil needs as outlined in their asthma action plan.

## 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 pupils diagnosed with asthma are required to have an up-to-date Personalised Asthma Action Plan provided by parents/carers and/or healthcare professionals. Parents are sent a link to an online form to complete. From this information the school keeps its asthma register and creates the Personalised Asthma Action Plan which is available to all school staff.
- Where appropriate, this information is incorporated into an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) in line with statutory guidance for supporting pupils with medical conditions.
- Asthma action plans and IHPs are reviewed at least annually, or sooner if there are changes to a pupil's condition or treatment.
- 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.

## **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.

## **Monitoring and Review**

- The school records all use of emergency inhalers and significant asthma incidents. These are reviewed regularly by the Asthma Lead to identify any patterns or concerns and to inform additional support where required.

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

**Policy updated:** June 2026

**To be reviewed:** June 2028