



Moorlands Primary School

High Expectations, High Achievements, Challenge and Enjoyment for All

Asthma Policy

Name of Policy Writer/Amendments	Date Written/Amended	Next Review Date	Approved by Governors
Becky Freeman	July 2016	May 2018	7/7/16
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Introduction

At Moorlands Primary School we recognise that asthma is a condition that affects many children. We welcome children who suffer from asthma and we will ensure that they are able to participate fully in all areas of school life.

Definition of Asthma

Asthma is a common long-term condition that can cause coughing, wheezing, chest tightness and breathlessness.

The severity of these symptoms varies from person to person. Asthma can be controlled well in most people most of the time, although some people may have more persistent problems.

Occasionally, asthma symptoms can get gradually or suddenly worse. This is known as an "asthma attack", although doctors sometimes use the term "exacerbation".

Severe attacks may require hospital treatment and can be life threatening, although this is unusual.

Purpose and Aims

The aim of this policy is to ensure that staff, parents, governors, visitors and pupils understand about asthma and how to deal with it.

In order to make our school asthma friendly we have adopted a non-smoking policy throughout the school grounds to ensure that pupils are never exposed to the dangers of passive smoking. – for further guidance see non-smoking policy.

Chemicals, paint sprays and certain cleaning materials are not to be used whilst pupils are present.

It is essential that we understand how to deal with medication and inhalers effectively. There are two types of treatment both of which come in an inhaler.

- ❖ **RELIEVERS** - which help the child's breathing difficulties, these are generally in blue containers.
- ❖ **PREVENTORS** - which make airways less sensitive, these generally come in brown/white containers.

Parents are asked to fill in an asthma card detailing their child's emergency needs, which will be stored with inhalers in the year group medical boxes. Parents are encouraged to complete the consent form for use of the Emergency Inhaler.

Children with asthma should know where the inhalers are stored in case, they need them.

As we are a large school, inhalers will be stored in year group's medical boxes, where staff can readily access them.

All children and staff, including lunchtime assistants are made aware where the inhalers are kept.

Inhalers are always taken on school trips and to the swimming baths.

It is the parent/careers responsibility to make sure a useable and in date, prescribed inhaler is in school at all times. Inhalers should be clearly marked with the child's name.

In the event of a child requiring an inhaler in school, staff will complete the 'I have used my inhaler at school today' slip which is kept in the medical box to inform parents. A record of the time and amount administered should also be completed and stored in school.

The Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler can only be used by children for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as a reliever medication in the event of their own inhaler being out of date/unusable or unavailable

Protocol for Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

- The Salbutamol inhaler can be supplied by Boots Pharmacy on Leeds Road or Eureka School First Aid supplies. To obtain a new inhaler a letter of request, stating the purpose for which the product is required, and the total quantity of the named items required signed by the head on School headed paper is required.
- The emergency inhalers are stored in a draw string bag by the defibrillator, located on the wall inside the staffroom
- A regular check to ensure the inhalers are in date will be carried out by the named first aider. A replacement inhaler must be obtained when the expiry date is within a month
- When an inhaler has been administered it must be wiped clean, dried and returned to storage – the plastic spacer should not be reused but should be sent home with the child for future personal use
- A register of all the children in school who have been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler will be kept with the emergency inhaler, with identification of those children who have consent to use it
- Written parental consent must be obtained for the use of the emergency inhaler – the inhaler MUST NOT be used if consent has not been given

All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.

Equal Opportunities

Full participation in all areas of the school curriculum, including physical education, should be the aim for all. Children who become wheezy, should take their reliever inhaler and rest until they feel better. Staff need to

keep an eye on such children.

Teachers should be aware that some children are shy in public when taking their inhalers. We will ensure that other children understand asthma so that they can support their friends. Other children must be made aware that inhalers are medicine and taking other people's medicine is dangerous.

What to do if a child suffers an asthma attack

An asthma attack can cause severe distress to a child and be a frightening experience for the child and anyone nearby, particularly if the person with the child has not seen one before. Action needed does not need specific medical training, but the following may help:

- Make sure the child is sat up straight - don't lie down
- Stay calm, reassure the child continually
- Send for the child's inhaler and asthma card (in the medical box in their year group)
- Allow/assist the child to have one puff of the reliever inhaler (usually blue) every 30-60 seconds, up to a maximum of 10 puffs
- Encourage the child to breath slowly and deeply
- If they appear worse or show no signs of recovery, call 999
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk, call 999
- The child is getting exhausted, call 999
- There are any doubts about the child's condition, call 999
- Contact the parents immediately
- If the ambulance is taking longer than 15 minutes you can repeat the inhaler

We will work in partnership with parents, governors, health professionals, school staff and children to ensure the successful implementation of the school asthma policy.