



**Chawson First School
Asthma Policy**

Reviewed October 2023

Chawson First School wishes to ensure that pupils with medical conditions and SEND receive appropriate care and support at school. All pupils have an entitlement to a full time curriculum or as much as their medical condition allows. This policy has been developed in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" (December 2015) and "Emergency Inhalers in schools" (March 2015).

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
 - Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
 - Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
 - Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take in the form of Individual Healthcare Plans
 - Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
 - Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
 - Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents/ carers, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully
1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
 2. This school encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All teachers, and at least one member of staff in each class is provided with asthma training on a regular basis. Mrs Wood, Assistant Headteacher, has a list of school staff trained in this area. This training is accessed through the asthma UK website-
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/>
How to use a spacer with tidal breathing-
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/tidal-breathing/>
How to use a spacer with a single breath and hold-
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhaler-videos/single-breath-and-hold/>

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Children are encouraged to feel confident to tell their class teacher or other staff members when they need to use their inhaler. A Record sheet is kept within the class first aid box for when each time an inhaler is used. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in their individual classroom in a designated first aid box marked with a green and white first aid sign.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. **All school staff will let children take their own medication when needed.**

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a Individual Healthcare Plan and return it to the school. From this information the school keeps its Health Care Plan register which is displayed in the first aid room and held centrally in the school office. Each class also holds a record of this register in their class file. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school.

Chawson First School holds an emergency inhaler and spacer in the Deputy Heads office. 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015. This medication can only be administered to children on the Health Care Plan register detailing asthma or the necessity for an inhaler. Specific staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler and there is pictorial and written instructions around the school.

Parents of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available. See Appendix 1 attached. Parents will be informed by letter if their child has used the emergency inhaler (Appendix 2).

Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by a named member of staff. (Currently Mrs Walton and Mrs Lush) Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom in a named wallet containing their individual medication and Healthcare Plan, in their class designated first aid area.

All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All this information is found in their medication wallet along with their medication.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the Healthcare Plan register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. Records are kept every time a child uses their inhaler. One employed member of staff will sign the record.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. Teachers will be aware of any child who has allergies and will act appropriately. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the corridor if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

When a Child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nursing team about the situation.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure,

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

The child's parents must be informed about the attack.

Emergency procedure

If the pupil does not feel better or you are worried **at any time** before reaching 10 puffs from the inhaler, **call 999 for an ambulance.**

If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes, give an additional 10 puffs as detailed above with a 30 second gap between each as a minimum.

In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's parents or carers should always be contacted.

In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they should always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer is present.

This policy should be read alongside

Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Including the Administration of Medicines Policy

Appendix 1

Consent Form: Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler (delete as appropriate)
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which is kept at school.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, *I do/ *do not consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

*please mark as appropriate

Signed: Date:

Name: (print)

Child's Name:

Class:

Parent's address and contact details:

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.....
.....

Telephone:

E-Mail:

Please return to the school office as soon as possible FAO Mrs Wood

Appendix 2

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use Form

Child's name:

Class:

Date:

Dear

This letter is to formally notify you that has had problems with
his/her breathing today. This happened when

*They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given Puffs.

*Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sage
Deputy Headteacher

*Delete as appropriate

Appendix 3

Each class will record the use of inhalers for any child with an Asthma Health Care Plan.

Chawson First School Record of inhaler use.

Class:					
Child's name:	Date	Time	Staff	Comment	Signature of staff