



St. John's Catholic Primary School Policy on Asthma in School

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art, PE, science, educational visits and out of hours activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- Endeavours that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and know the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor/asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom.

It is advised that the school is provided with two labelled, in date spare reliever inhaler. These are kept in the medical area outside the school office as well as in the classrooms of the asthma sufferer. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.

If a parent/carer has stated that their child requires an inhaler in school but does not supply an **in-date inhaler**, the school will take the following action:

- Phone the parent/carer and request that the inhaler is brought into school without delay. The phone call will be logged on the pupil's Asthma Information Form. Further conversations may be appropriate, at the discretion of the school.
- If the parent/carer fails to supply the inhaler as requested, write to the parent (as shown in appendix B). This repeats the request for the inhaler and states that without the inhaler, in the event of an asthma attack, staff will be unable to follow the usual Asthma Emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services. The letter will be filed with the child's

asthma information form.

School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will facilitate pupils to take their medicines when they need to.

Record keeping

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school, for the school's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are given an asthma information form to complete and return to school (see appendix A). From this information the school keeps its asthma records. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the school about any change in their child's medication or treatment.

Exercise and activity - PE and games

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent/carer on the asthma form) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down. Each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson.

School Environment

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school will take into consideration, any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibility of exposure to these triggers.

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the school procedure (as shown in appendix C)

Access and Review of Policy

This Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school's website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office. This policy will be reviewed on a two yearly cycle.

Signed: (Chair of Governors) Signed: (Headteacher)

St John's Catholic Primary School Asthma Information Form

CHILD'S NAME Age Year

1. Does your child need an inhaler in school? Yes/No

2. Does your child use a spacer? Yes/No

3. If your child needs a blue inhaler before exercise, please state the number of puffs

4. Please circle all the statements that apply to your child;

- My child carries their own inhaler.
- My child requires an inhaler/spacer* and I have provided this/these* for the school
- My child does not require a spacer
- I need to obtain an inhaler/spacer* for school use and will supply this/these* as soon as possible

4. Please provide information on your child's current treatment. (Include the name, type of inhaler, the dose and number of puffs)

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5. What triggers your child's asthma?

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It is advised that your child should have a spare inhaler in school. Spare inhalers may be required in the event that the first inhaler runs out is lost or forgotten. Inhalers must be clearly labelled with your child's name and must be replaced before they reach their expiry date.

I am the person with parental responsibility and agree to ensure that my child has in-date inhalers and a spacer (if prescribed) in school. I also give consent for the Emergency Asthma Treatment as shown overleaf, which is recognised by Asthma Specialists to be given by St. John's Catholic school to my child in the event of an emergency.

Signed:

Date.....

Please remember to inform the school if there are any changes in your child's treatment or condition.

Parental Update (only to be completed if your child no longer has asthma)	
My child no longer has asthma and therefore no longer requires an inhaler in school or on school visits.	
Signed <i>I am the person with parental responsibility</i>	Date

For office use:

	Provided by parent (Yes/No)	Location (delete as appropriate)	Expiry date	Date of phone call requesting inhaler/spacer	Date of letter (attach copy)
1 st inhaler		With pupil/In classroom			
2 nd inhaler		In office/first aid room			
Spacer (if required)					
Record any further follow up with the parent/carer:					

Example letter to send to parent/carer who has not provided an in-date inhaler.

Dear {Parent or Carer}

Following our letter of {insert Date} regarding the expired date of the inhaler that we keep in the first aid cabinet for {name of pupil}, I am very concerned that a new inhaler has not been provided. Please ensure that an inhaler is provided without delay.

If {name of pupil} no longer requires an inhaler, please complete the tear-off slip below and return to the school as soon as possible.

Please be aware that in the absence of an inhaler, should {name of child} suffer an asthma attack, staff will not be able to follow the usual procedures. They will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the Emergency Services.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

My child no longer has asthma and therefore no longer requires an inhaler in school or on school visits.

SignedParent. Date:

EMERGENCY ASTHMA TREATMENT

At

St. John's Catholic Primary School

Asthma attacks & wheeziness

Signs of worsening asthma:

- Not responding to reliever medication
- Breathing faster than usual
- Difficulty speaking in sentences
- Difficulty walking/lethargy
- Pale or blue tinge to lips/around the mouth
- Appears distressed or exhausted

- Give **6 puffs of the blue inhaler via a spacer**

- Reassess after 5 minutes

- If the child still feels wheezy or appears to be breathless they should have a further **4 puffs of the blue inhaler**

- Reassess after 5 minutes

- **If their symptoms are not relieved with 10 puffs of blue inhaler then this should be viewed as a serious attack:**

- **CALL AN AMBULANCE and CALL PARENT**

- **While waiting for an ambulance continue to give 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler every few minutes**

I am the person with parental responsibility and give consent for the Emergency Asthma Treatment which is recognised by Asthma Specialists to be given by St. John's Catholic school to my child in the event of an emergency.

Signed:

Date.....