

LORDSHIP LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Asthma Policy

Date of Policy: Summer 2021

Date of Review: Summer 2023

Agreed by Governing Body:

Signed (Chair of Governors) _____

Principles of Asthma Policy

Lordship Lane Primary School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes pupils with asthma. We recognise;

- The immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital
- Ensure staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Ensure that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including P.E, swimming and trips (including residential trips).
- Keep records of children with asthma and the medication they take, including a daily log.

Medication

Asthma pumps are kept in individual, named containers in the main school office. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name and class by the parent/carer. School staff will supervise and record when medication has been used. Children are encouraged to take their own inhaler when they require it. This is usually supervised either by staff who have had asthma training or a qualified first aider. School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to children (except in an emergency), however many children have poor inhaler technique, or are unable to take the inhaler by themselves.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure their children's medication is in date.

Record Keeping

All children with asthma have a record sheet in which, each use of their medication should be recorded. The folder with the records are kept in the main office and are easily accessible so they can be filled in by the adult supervising the use of the inhaler as soon as the medication has been used. Some children will have a full record, this does not mean they have been having an attack every day, but, this is how the care plan suggests medication is used.

Any child with asthma has to have a completed care plan in school which is updated annually. If medication changes during the school year, parents /carers are asked to inform the school immediately.

P.E.

Taking part in sports is part of the school life and National Curriculum. Teachers and support staff are aware of any child suffering with asthma and will remind those whose asthma is triggered by exercise to use their reliever inhaler before a lesson. If they need to use it during a lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

Swimming and off site trips

Pupils in years 4, 5 and 6 attend off site swimming lessons throughout the year at the local swimming

pool. The pupils are bused to and from the site. Children with asthma must take their inhaler with them to the swimming pool or they will not be allowed to swim or go on school trips. Inhalers will be collected from the school office by the first aider participating in the trip and will be collected and returned at the end of the trip.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children who are asthmatic know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

- Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
- Stay calm and reassure the child
- Loosen any tight clothing around the neck and chest area
- The child should be positioned in a way they feel most comfortable; the ideal position is sitting at a table leaning slightly forward with lower arms resting on the table top
- If possible fresh air should be let into the room
- If after using the inhaler to the stated amount on the care plan there is no effect, symptoms are getting worse (child becoming more agitated, unable to talk or you have real concerns);
- Call 999
- Call the child's parents / carer
- Continue reassuring the child in a calm and soothing manner
- If child loses consciousness place in the recovery position, monitor breathing call 999 again to report changes

After an attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's school day, when they feel better they can return to normal school activities.

Older children should be reminded to inform parents they had to use their inhaler, whilst younger pupil's parents should be informed by the class teacher or teaching assistant/nurse.

