



St. Ethelbert's RCP, Bolton Asthma Policy

Love, Care, Share...

Love learning as friends;

Care for our community as neighbours;

Share our faith in Jesus as disciples

Principles:

As a caring, Catholic community, the school:

- recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children; all pupils with asthma are valued
- 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
- ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- ensures that other children understand 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, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has drawn on guidance from the Department for Education and the National Asthma Campaign. This policy is also related to the school's *Administration of Medicines* policy and the *Supporting Children with Medical Conditions* policy.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever is vital. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. These are readily available in the classroom and are also taken on school trips and other activities, such as walks in the local area and swimming lessons. First aiders must ensure that children's medication is available on all such visits. For

residential trips, parents are asked to provide an additional inhaler – school inhalers will not be used so that there is continuity of care on return.

The names of those pupils who may require an inhaler are shared with staff. They understand that these children will be allowed to take their medication when they need to. This needs to be recorded using the appropriate forms in the Administration of Medicines policy.

A record of expiry dates is kept; parents are informed well in advance so that they can provide new medication.

St. Ethelbert's has purchased an emergency inhaler as recommended in the DfE's 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in Schools' (March 2015).

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. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma.

Asthma Awareness

The school ensures that children understand asthma raising its profile through special activities on World Asthma Day. (Usually held in May each year)

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, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

- 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.**

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 told about the attack.

Emergencies:

If for any reason the child stops breathing, an ambulance should be called **immediately**. **An ambulance must also be called if:**

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate.

Reviewed October 2024