



ASTHMA POLICY

OVERVIEW

Asthma is the most common long-term medical condition in children. It is an inflammatory condition that affects the airways.

Having asthma can have implications for a child's schooling and learning. It impacts on care given within schools and early years settings. Appropriate asthma care is necessary for the child's immediate safety, long-term well-being, and optimal academic performance.

OBJECTIVES

To ensure staff, governors and parents are clear with the procedures of caring for children with asthma. The 2010 Children, Schools and Families Act and the Children and Families Act 2014 introduce a legal duty on schools to look after children with medical conditions. This is inclusive of children with asthma, and it is therefore essential that all school staff and those who support younger children have an awareness of this medical condition and the needs of pupils with this condition.

STRATEGIES

- The school will maintain a register of children and young people with asthma.
- Every child with asthma should have an individual health care plan (HCP). This is completed with the SENCo, class teacher and parent.
- Parents will also complete an emergency inhaler consent form.
- Children will have appropriate supervision depending on their individual needs.
- Children will have immediate access to their inhalers. These are stored in the classroom. In no circumstance, should inhalers belonging to other children be used.
- School will log the use of inhalers for children on their respective log and inform parents.
- School always has at least one emergency asthma inhaler kit on the school premises. An emergency asthma inhaler kit should include: a salbutamol metered dose inhaler; at least two plastic spacers compatible with the inhaler; instructions on using the inhaler and spacer; instructions on cleaning and storing the inhaler; manufacturer's information; a checklist of inhalers, identified by their batch number and expiry date, a list of children permitted to use the emergency inhaler and a record of administration (i.e. when the inhaler has been used).
- The school environment, as far as possible, is kept free of the most common allergens that may trigger an asthma attack. School do not keep warm blooded pets (for example dogs, rabbits, or guinea pigs) inside the school premises. Smoking is explicitly prohibited on the school site.



- Staff will access training from the school nurse on an annual basis.

ROLES

Parents

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform school, on admission, of their child's medical condition and needs. It is also important that the school is informed by parents of any changes.

Parents should ensure medication is up to date. They will ensure their medicines and medical devices are labelled with the child's full name and date of birth and in the original pharmacy packaging.

School

The school will keep an accurate record of each occasion a student is given or supervised taking their inhaler. If recording takes place in more than one location i.e., classroom and office the record is amalgamated to clearly reflect frequency of use.

Parents will be informed if a student uses their inhaler at any time unless taken pre-sport as agreed. If a pupil refuses to use their inhaler, this is also recorded, and parents are informed as soon as possible.

School will ensure HCPs are completed annually unless any changes occur.

Office staff and SENCo will check the emergency inhaler kit.

The SENCo will ensure that the school's asthma policy is read and understood by all members of staff including teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and catering staff.

This policy will be shared and available to parents on the school website.

The disposal of emergency inhalers will be in line with national guidance for emergency inhaler kits which recommends that spent inhalers are returned to the pharmacy to be recycled, and never thrown away in general waste bins.

Teachers

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring medication is taken on any trips.

Class teachers should inform parents if medication is out of date.

PE teachers should make sure students have their inhalers with them during PE and take them when needed as stated in their plan; before, during or after PE, according to their HCP.



OUTCOMES

Children with asthma are fully supported in school.

LEGISLATION

The Children and Families Act 2014

Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 introduced a legal duty on schools to look after children with medical conditions. This is inclusive of children with asthma. Schools must make arrangements to support pupils at school with medical conditions and have regard to the statutory guidance: See Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

The Education Act 2002

Sections 21 and 175 detail how governing bodies of maintained schools must promote the wellbeing of pupils and ensure the safeguarding of children at the school.

Section 3 of the Children Act 1989

This places a duty on a person with the care of a child to do all that is reasonable in the circumstances for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the child's wellbeing. With relation to a child with asthma, this will mean knowing what to do in the event of an emergency and doing it.

Legal duties on local authorities

Local authorities have legal responsibilities to help make sure schools can meet the duties relating to children with asthma. These duties refer to all children in the local authority and they do not depend on the kind of school the child attends.

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004

This is a particularly important piece of legislation if schools are struggling to get the support and training, they need to allow them to look after a child with asthma properly. Section 10 essentially means the local authority must decide to promote cooperation between the authority and relevant partners. Relevant partners include the governing body of a maintained school, the proprietor of an academy, integrated care systems and NHS England and Improvement. They must make arrangements with a view to improving the wellbeing of children, including their physical and mental health, protection from harm and neglect, and education.



St. Philip's
RC Primary School

APPENDICIES

1. Emergency Inhaler Guidance
2. List of Qualified First Aiders in school



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Appendix 1 – Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools

[Emergency asthma inhalers for use in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/emergency-asthma-inhalers-for-use-in-schools)

Appendix 2 - List of Qualified First Aiders in school

Course	Staff member	Expires
First Aid at work Level 3	Ola Leszczuk	October 2026
First Aid at work Level 3	Rita Gilmore	October 2024
First Aid at work Level 3	Tatiana Bumystere	05/05/2025
Paediatric	Ashleigh Brady	13 th October 2025
Paediatric	Nina Monaghan	April 2026
Paediatric	Joanne Chapman	November 2024
Paediatric	Ola Leszczuk	25/03/2025
Paediatric	Rebecca Moore	April 2026
Paediatric	Louise Procter	September 2024