

Friarage School

Asthma Policy 2017-2018

Friarage Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children at the school. Our school positively welcomes all children with asthma. We encourage pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by the school staff and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come in contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has delivered asthma training. Training is updated once a year. Signs of an Asthma attack include:

- Persistent cough
- A Wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Being unusually quiet
- The child complains of shortness of breath at rest, feeling tight in the chest (younger children may describe this a tummy ache)
- Difficulty in breathing (fast and deep respiration)
- Nasal flaring
- Being unable to complete sentences
- Appearing exhausted.

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhalers as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom in a cupboard with easy access. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their child has a pump in school.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. In case the child's own runs out. This needs to be clearly labelled with the child's name and will be kept in the office. The school holds emergency inhalers which are only used in exceptional circumstances, when the child's inhaler has expired. This inhaler would only be used by children, who have either been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed an inhaler, or have been prescribed an inhaler as regular medication.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medicines when they need to.

In an emergency situation (unexpected asthma attack), school staff are required to act as any reasonable prudent person would. This may include administering medication:

- keep calm – do not panic

- send for a qualified first aider – do not move the child
- make sure that specific directions of the reliever inhaler are followed
- loosen clothing
- reassure the pupil

If no immediate improvement during an attack continue to follow directions of the reliever inhaler until symptoms improve.

CALL 999 if:

- symptoms do not improve in 5-10 minutes
- the child is too breathless to talk
- or if you are in doubt

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. Every September, a new contact and medical update form is issued.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma Card to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. School asthma cards are then sent to parent/carers on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their children's medicines, or how much they take changes during the year. Failure to return the card/pump will result in a referral to the school nurse.

Taking part in sports, games, trips and other physical activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register. All off site activity must include the child's asthma kit.

Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Their reliever inhaler will be taken with them to the room where the physical activity will take place and encouraged to use it if necessary.

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a definitive no smoking policy. The school limits the use of any chemicals or aerosols. If at any time a particular fume is causing a child with asthma discomfort, then they will be allowed to leave the room until the air clears.

If a child is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs in addition to their asthma.

Signed(Chair of the governors)

Date

Signed(Head teacher)

Date

Policy to be reviewed: February 2020