

# Wilton & Barford Primary School

## ASTHMA POLICY

### Rational

Asthma is a physical condition, not an emotional illness. It affects at least one in every 10 children. An attack is caused by a sudden narrowing of the air passages making it difficult to breathe. Asthma can be controlled by, firstly avoiding known irritants or triggers and secondly by inhaling specific prescribed drugs.

### Aim

The aim of this policy is to set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of parents and staff in relation to children with Asthma in school.

### Objectives

- For all staff to be aware of children who they come into contact with who have asthma.
- To ensure that procedures relating to the use of inhalers are consistent throughout the school.
- To detail procedures to be followed if a child has an asthma attack.
- To ensure records are kept up to date and are available to all relevant staff.
- To make parents aware of this policy.

### Responsibility of the School

- To ensure that all pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school.
- To notify parents if their child has required their inhaler to be administered during the day (Key Stage 1). Key Stage 2 children will administer their own medication.
- To provide an accessible safe place for the storage of inhalers kept in school.
- To ensure that an up to date medical register is kept at the front of each class register and on class file.
- To ensure that staff have an understanding of what to do in the event of a child having an attack.
- On school trips or visits to ensure accompanying staff are aware of the children with asthma and to ensure these children have their inhaler. If undertaking physical activity where the inhaler may be damaged then the member of staff in charge will carry the inhaler. The staff member in charge will carry the inhaler for Key Stage 1 children.
- To remind parents in letters about trips that children with asthma need to bring an inhaler.

### Responsibility of Parents

- To notify school if their child has asthma.
- Supply their child with a named inhaler.
- To notify school if their child's medication is to be administered by a member of staff and to complete the appropriate permission form.

- To complete, annually, an asthma record.
- To notify the school of any change in their child's condition or medication.

Children who have been identified should have an inhaler in school. If parents do not consider it appropriate to supply their child with an inhaler, then this must be their responsibility.

### **Where do we keep inhalers**

Key Stage 1 pupils should keep their inhaler in a box in the classroom. Key Stage 2 pupils may take responsibility for their own inhalers.

### **ASTHMA ATTACK - WHAT TO DO.....**

#### **Mild to Moderate Attack**

(Cough, wheeze, tight chest, but child able to talk in sentences.)

1. Ensure their usual reliever dose taken immediately - usually blue inhaler, relieves breathing difficulty in 5 to 10 minutes.

#### **IF NOT - Follow 'Severe Attack' guide.**

2. Stay calm and reassuring. Help child breathe. Attacks are frightening. Listen to the child. Assist to sit comfortably. Encourage slow deep breaths.
3. After the attack - For mild attacks children can resume normal activities as soon as they feel better.

#### **Inform their parents.**

#### **SEVERE ATTACK - Emergency Situation**

The following indicates a severe attack, which must be dealt with at once:

- Reliever has no effect within 5 to 10 minutes.
  - Child distressed or unable to talk normally.
  - Child is getting exhausted.
  - Blue tinge around the lips.
  - You have any doubts about the child's condition only **ONE** sign needed to indicate severity.
- N.B. the child may not wheeze.

1. Ensure child takes second dose of reliever.
2. Second adult dials 999 for ambulance.  
State the child is having severe asthma attack requiring immediate attention. Always transport to hospital by ambulance, not staff cars as the child may deteriorate rapidly.
3. Continue giving reliever until help arrives. Use the child's own reliever
4. Inform the child's parent or guardian of the situation and actions take.
5. After the event - The link person should document the incident and inform the school nurse

ASTHMA RECORD

SURNAME		FIRST NAME	
DOB		Mobile	
Parent(s) Name(s)			
Telephone Home		Work	
GP Name		GP Telephone	
Asthma Nurse		Telephone	
Known triggers/allergies			
Any other Medical problems			
My Child's Medication		Reliever medication (usually blue)	
Medication Name		Device	
Dose		When Taken	
Other Medication		Medication Name	
How taken/device		Dose	
When Taken			
Emergency Treatment	Repeat the inhaler every five minutes until the ambulance arrives. If a child is in severe distress or loses consciousness, call an ambulance IMMEDIATELY.		
Signed: (Parent)			
Date			

Key Points for parents to remember:

This record is for your school. Remember to update it if treatment is changed. Remember to check you have enough inhaler doses, that it is in date and labelled by the pharmacist with your child's name and dosage details.

I \_\_\_\_\_ can confirm that I have administered medication to  
\_\_\_\_\_ which was taken during school hours.

Name of medication \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Any special requirements \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. take with food/store in fridge)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes