



Cameley Church of England Primary School

Asthma Policy

This policy is written with reference to the Christian Foundation of the school.

'Nurturing Faith: Inspiring Learning'

Our vision has been inspired by Matthew 17:20

"Let the words of Christ, in all their richness, live in your hearts and make you wise."

Colossians 3:16

Ratified ___D R Wobey___ Date ___29th March 2023___

Review Period ___3 years___ Next Review ___Term 4 2027___

Introduction

Asthma is a condition of the air passages, the small tubes that carry air in and out of the lungs. When a person comes into contact with an asthma trigger the muscles around the small air passages tighten and the linings of the air passages become inflamed and irritated, making it difficult to breathe.

Individual people are affected by asthma in different ways. Some people may have very occasional symptoms such as coughing, shortness of breath or a feeling of tightness in the chest, whereas others may suffer these symptoms more frequently and some may even have symptoms every day (or night). People with asthma that is not under control may cough at night which interrupts their sleep and can make them tired during the school day. It can be a very serious, potentially life-threatening condition.

Cameley C of E Primary School recognises that asthma is the most common long-term medical condition among children affecting up to 1 in 11 children.

We positively welcome all pupils and staff with asthma and encourage them to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by supporting them in the management of their medical condition.

Aims and objectives

By having a clear policy that is shared with school staff, parents, carers and pupils we aim to ensure that:

- pupils and staff with asthma can participate fully in all aspects of school life including sport and PE;
- all staff recognise the symptoms and know what to do in the event of an asthma attack;
- any pupil with severe asthma has an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) which is reviewed annually (or more often if required) in partnership with the child's parents/carers to ensure that the child receives effective support for their asthma and to provide clarity about what needs to be done, when and by whom;
- staff who come into contact with people with asthma are provided with training either via Emergency First Aid training, Paediatric First Aid training or by the First Aider at Work. Additional training may be necessary if children have severe or 'brittle' asthma;
- staff understand that it is vital for anyone with asthma to have immediate access to their reliever inhalers;
- the school environment is favourable to children and adults with asthma;
- other children understand asthma;
- we work together with school staff, parents, governors, medical professionals and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully;

- we keep records of children and staff with asthma, their triggers and the medication they take;
- staff or visitors who have asthma will be supported in a similar way and provided with our emergency inhalers if required.

This policy has been written in line with advice and guidance from the Department for Education, the Department for Health & Social Care, Asthma UK, the B&NES School Nursing Team and B&NES Health, Safety & Wellbeing Team.

It is supplemental to the Health & Safety Policy and Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy.

Policy

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all staff, employers (TPT) and children understand asthma.

Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

Medication

When a child joins the school parents/carers are asked to complete a Medi-Alert Form to inform us if their child has medical conditions, including asthma.

Parents/carers are then responsible for providing the school with their child's inhaler, and for ensuring it is in date.

Inhalers are stored in a secure place within the classroom

Prompt and/or immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital.

Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough.

All children are encouraged to use their inhalers through a spacer.

The reliever inhalers of Early Years/Key Stage 1 children are kept in a central location in the classroom.

Children in Key Stage 2 take responsibility for their own inhalers.

All inhalers must be additionally labelled with the child's name/initials by the parent.

School staff are not required to administer medication to children; however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by TPT when acting in accordance with this policy.

All children and staff will have access to their own medication when they need it.

Emergency use of Inhalers

Parents who notify the school that their child has asthma or have been prescribed a reliever inhaler are sent a form to provide written consent for the emergency inhaler to be used if their child's inhaler is not available in an emergency (for example, because it is broken or empty). See appendix 1 and 2

If an emergency inhaler has been used by a child then the parents/carers are informed of this by the class teacher and through the 'LETTER TO INFORM PARENTS OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE'. Appendix 3.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to people with asthma.

The school does not keep furry or 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 people with asthma.

Children and adults are encouraged to relocate to another learning space if particular substances appear to trigger their asthma.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of every academic year or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma.

The school pupil database and medical needs register are then updated.

If/when medication changes, it is the parents' responsibility to update the school.

Staff supervising self-administration or administering medication will complete the relevant form each time.

No routine record of self-administration will be kept for pupils who carry their own medication unless there is an unexpected change in the management of their asthma.

When a child is falling behind in lessons

The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

Where a child's asthma is having an impact on their ability to learn, the class teacher and/or Inclusion Lead will liaise with the school nurse in order to support the child.

Asthma attacks

The school follows the following procedure -

- 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.**

After the attack

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.

Emergency procedure

The child's emergency contact should be called urgently from the office 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.

IF THE PARENT IS UNOBTAINABLE, CALL AN AMBULANCE



Cameley CEVC Primary School

Nurturing Faith: Inspiring Learning

"Let the words of Christ in all their richness live in your hearts and make you wise"
- Colossians 3:16



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Inhalers

Cameley CEVC Primary School has purchased emergency inhalers which can be provided for pupils or adults at the school in the event of an emergency.

Emergency inhalers can only be administered to pupils for whom written parental consent has been given, and who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.

According to our records, your child suffers from asthma and / or has been prescribed an inhaler and so will be included in our school Asthma Register.

Please complete the consent form attached if you are happy to give consent for us to administer our school inhaler in an emergency.

If this situation has changed since we last contacted you, please would you also complete the attached form so that we may update the information held on your child.

Completed forms may be returned to the school office in person or via email: office@cameleyprimary.org.uk

A copy of our Asthma Policy can be provided on request and is also available on our website.

Thank you for your support.

Yours faithfully

Hannah Maggs
Headteacher



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CONSENT FORM

In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their own inhaler is not available or is unusable,

I give consent for my child _____ in class _____

to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler provided by the school for such emergencies.

I understand that I am responsible for providing the school with a replacement inhaler and spacer in the event that the emergency kit is administered to my child as it is not possible to reuse the kits.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____ (please print)

Contact number: _____

It would be useful for us to know the following:

Any allergies your child has and what triggers their asthma

symptoms _____

What symptoms your child usually suffers with and how severe they can be

What medication your child needs, how much, and when they need it

What type of inhaler your child has and whether they know how to use it

themselves _____

If your child needs help with their inhaler please let their teacher know.

Or, if NOT WISHING TO CONSENT

I do NOT give my consent to the above

Please tick box

Child's name: _____ Class _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____ (please print)

LETTER TO INFORM PARENTS OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE

Date: _____

Child's name: _____ Class _____

Dear _____

This letter is to formally notify you that _____ has had problems with their breathing today.

We would strongly advise that you make an appointment for your child to be seen by their GP as soon as possible.

This happened (time & activity)

- A member of staff helped your child to use their own asthma inhaler.
- Your child did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the school's emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given _____ puffs.
- Your child's own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the school's emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given _____ puffs.

We used one of the school's emergency inhalers/spacers to help your child and this has been labelled with their name and will be kept by their classteacher at school for them to use again if required.

Please could you kindly provide a replacement inhaler and spacer as soon as possible to restock our emergency kits. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Hannah Maggs
Headteacher