



Deanwood Primary School

Asthma Policy

Policy Scope: Deanwood Primary School

Responsibility: Local Governing Body

Review Frequency: Annually

Review Date: December 2024

The Governing Body of Deanwood Primary School adopted this policy in November 2023.

Signed by D Giles, Chair of Governors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Giles", with a horizontal line underneath.



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Statement of Intent

Deanwood Primary School: -

- Recognises that asthma is a serious but controllable condition and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life including physical exercise, visits, field trips and other out-of-school activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and their medicinal requirements
- Ensures that the school environment is conducive to the education of pupils with asthma
- Works in partnership with interested parties, such as the Local Academy Board, members of school staff, parents, pupils and outside agencies to ensure the best educational outcomes possible for pupils with asthma.

1. Background

This policy has been created with regard to the following DfE guidance: -

- Equality Act 2010
 - DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
 - Asthma UK (2020) 'Asthma at school and nursery'
 - **[New]** DfE (2022) 'First aid in schools, early years and further education'
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- 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions' December 2017
 - 'Guidance on the Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools' March 2015

This policy has also been created in consultation with parents/carers, the Local Academy Board, the school nursing team and pupils and with regard to additional guidance from Asthma UK and healthcare professionals.

This policy enables pupils with asthma to manage their condition effectively in school and provides clear procedures to help ensure their safety and wellbeing.

This policy also encourages and assists pupils with asthma in achieving their full potential in all aspects of school life.

2. Key Roles and Responsibilities

The Local Academy Board has a responsibility to: -

- Ensure the health and safety of staff and pupils on the school premises and when taking part in school activities
- Ensure that the Asthma Policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds including, but not limited to, age, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation
- Handle complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the Trust's Complaints Policy
- Ensure the Asthma Policy is effectively monitored and updated
- Report any successes and failures of this policy to the Head of School, members of school staff, local health authorities, parents and pupils
- Provide indemnity for teachers and other members of school staff who volunteer to administer medicine to pupils with asthma in need of help

The Head of School has a responsibility to: -

- Create and implement the Asthma Policy with the help of school staff, the school nursing team, LA guidance and the Local Academy Board
- Ensure the policy is effectively implemented and communicated to all members of the school community
- Ensure all aspects of this policy are effectively carried out
- Arrange for members of staff to receive information from the school nursing team on how to recognise the symptoms of an asthma attack, how to distinguish asthma attacks from other conditions with similar symptoms, how to deal with an asthma attack, who the designated members of staff (first aiders) are and how to achieve their help
- Ensure all supply teachers and new members of staff are made aware of the Asthma Policy and provided with appropriate training
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Asthma Policy
- Report to the Local Academy Board and LA as necessary.

Members of the school staff have a responsibility to: -

- Read and understand the Asthma Policy
- Know which of the pupils that they come into contact with have asthma
- Know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
- Inform parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack
- Inform parents/carers if their child is using their reliever inhaler more than usual
- Ensure pupils with asthma have their medication with them on school trips and during activities outside their classroom

- Ensure pupils who are unwell due to asthma are allowed time and resources to catch up on missed school work
- Be aware that pupils with asthma may experience tiredness during the school day due to their night-time symptoms
- Be aware that pupils with asthma may experience bullying
- Make contact with parents/carers, the school nursing team and the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) if a child is falling behind with their school work because of their asthma

Members of staff leading PE lessons have a responsibility to: -

- Understand asthma and its impact on pupils. Pupils with asthma should not be forced to take part in activities if they feel unwell
- Ensure pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in provided their asthma is well controlled
- Ensure pupils have their reliever inhaler with them during physical activity and that they are allowed to use it when needed
- Allow pupils to stop during activities if they experience symptoms of asthma
- Allow pupils to return to activities when they feel well enough to do so and their symptoms have subsided (the school recommends a **five minute waiting period** before allowing the pupil to return)
- Remind pupils with asthma whose symptoms are triggered by physical activity to use their reliever inhaler before warming up
- Ensure pupils with asthma always perform sufficient warm ups and warm downs.

Pupils with asthma have a responsibility to: -

- Tell their teacher or parent/carer if they are feeling unwell
- Treat asthma medicines with respect
- Know how to gain access to their medication in an emergency
- Know how to take their asthma medicine.

All other pupils have a responsibility to: -

- Treat other pupils, with or without asthma, equally
- Let any pupil having an asthma attack take their reliever inhaler (usually blue) and ensure a member of staff is called immediately.

Parents/carers have a responsibility to: -

- Inform the school if their child has asthma
- Inform the school of the medication their child requires during school hours
- Inform the school of any medication their child requires during school trips, team sports events and other out-of-school activities
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's medical requirements

- Inform the school of any changes to their child's asthmatic condition, eg if their child is currently experiencing sleep problems due to their condition
- Ensure their child's reliever inhaler (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their child's name
- Ensure that their child's reliever inhaler are within their expiry dates
- Ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed due to problems with asthma
- Ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctors or asthma nurse (every six to twelve months)
- Ensure their child has a written Individual Healthcare Plan to help them manage their child's condition.

3. Asthma Medicines

Reliever inhalers are kept in the school's charge and are held in the pupil's classroom in a designated storage area.

Parents/carers must label their child's inhaler.

Members of school staff are not required to administer medicines to pupils (except in emergencies).

Staff members who have agreed to administer asthma medicines are insured by The Howard Academy Trust when acting in agreement with this policy.

Staff members will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

This policy is predominantly for the use of reliever inhalers. Preventer inhalers are very rarely required at school. However, if they are needed, staff members may need to remind pupils to bring them in if they consistently forget.

4. Symptoms of an asthma attack

Members of school staff will look for the following symptoms of asthma attacks in pupils: -

- Persistent coughing (when at rest)
- Shortness of breath (breathing fast and with effort)
- Wheezing
- Nasal flaring
- Complaints of tightness in the chest
- Being unusually quiet
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences

Younger pupils may express feeling tight in the chest as a 'tummy ache'.

5. **What to do when a child has an asthma attack**

In the event of an asthma attack staff will follow the procedure outlined below: -

- Keep calm and encourage pupils to do the same
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forwards – do not hug them or lie them down
- If necessary, call another member of staff to retrieve their inhaler – do not leave the affected pupil unattended
- If necessary, summon the assistance of a first aider to help administer an inhaler
- Ensure the child takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler immediately
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened
- Reassure the child

If there is no immediate improvement: -

- Continue to ensure the child takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler every two minutes, until their symptoms improve, but only up to a maximum of 10 puffs.

If there is no improvement before you have reached 10 puffs: -

- Call 999 for an ambulance
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes administer another 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler.

Call 999 immediately if: -

- The child is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- The child is going blue
- The child's lips have a blue/white tinge
- The child has collapsed
- You are in any doubt.

6. **Important points to remember**

Never leave a pupil having an asthma attack unattended.

In an emergency situation members of school staff are required to act like a 'prudent parent' – known as having a 'duty of care'.

Reliever medicine is very safe. Do not be overly concerned that a pupil may overdose.

Send another pupil to get a teacher/adult if an ambulance needs to be called.

Contact the pupil's parents/carers immediately after calling an ambulance.

A member of staff should always accompany a pupil taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until their parent/carer arrives.

7. Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins Deanwood Primary School, parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their enrolment form.

The school keeps a record of all pupils with asthma, complete with their medication requirements.

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of any changes to their child's condition or medication during the school year.

8. Exercise and physical activity

Games, activities and sports are an essential part of school life for our pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and are aware of any safety requirements.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE lessons when they are able to do so. Pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise will be allowed ample time to thoroughly warm up and cool down before and after the session.

During sports, activities and games each pupil's labelled inhaler will be kept in a box at the site of the activity.

Classroom teachers will follow the same guidelines as above during physical activities in the classroom.

9. Out-of-hours sport

Deanwood Primary School believes sport to be of great importance and utilises out-of-hours sports clubs to benefit pupils and increase the number of pupils involved in sport and exercise.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to become involved in out-of-hours sport as much as possible and will never be excluded from participation.

Members of school staff or contracted suppliers will be aware of the needs of pupils with asthma during these activities and adhere to the guidelines outlined in this policy.

10. The school environment

Deanwood Primary School does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep any furry or feathered animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy throughout the school grounds.

As far as possible the school does not use any chemicals in art or science

lessons that are potential triggers for asthma.

If chemicals that are known to be asthmatic triggers are to be used, asthmatic pupils will be taken outside of the classroom and provided with support and resources to continue learning.

11. Pupils falling behind

If a pupil is falling behind in lessons because of their asthma, the class teacher will talk to the parents/carers to discuss how to prevent the child falling further behind and possible ways for the child to catch up.

If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the SENCo about the pupil's needs and possible interventions.

The school recognizes that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma.

12. Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored continually by the Head of School and the Local Academy Board Policy committee. Any necessary amendments may be made immediately with full review annually.