

Kilburn Infant & Nursery School

ASTHMA POLICY

Introduction

Our policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals and the school health service.

Our school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. We positively welcome all pupils with asthma. Our school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy.

All staff who come into contact with pupils with training on asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

Asthma and the Law

From October 2014 schools have been allowed to hold a generic asthma inhaler, to be used on any child during an emergency situation where a child does not have an inhaler, or has insufficient dosage to resolve their asthma attack.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Inhalers are kept in the School Office for KS1 pupils, or in the Reception/Nursery buildings for EYFS or off school premises e.g. for visits.

Parents and Carers

We ask parents and carers to ensure school is provide with a spare reliever inhaler. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name. School Staff eg the Business Manager, check that inhalers are 'in date' and contact parents when new inhalers will be needed.

School Staff

School Staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency) , however many of the staff at this school 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 pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

Asthma Attacks

Staff recognise that the common signs of any asthma attack maybe:

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Feeling tight in the chest
- Being unusually quiet
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences
- Tummy ache (sometimes in younger children)

Staff will:

- Keep calm
- Encourage the child or young person to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- Make sure the child or young person takes two puffs of reliever inhaler (usually blue) immediately (preferably through a spacer)
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened
- Reassure the child
- Not leave a child having an asthma attack

If there is no immediate improvement, staff will continue to make sure the child or young person takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve .

Call 999 or a doctor urgently if:

- The child or young person's symptoms do not improve in 5 – 10 minutes
- The child or young person is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- The child or young person's lips are blue
- You are in doubt

Ensure the child takes one puff of their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance or doctor arrives.

After a minor asthma attack

- Minor attacks should not interrupt the involvement of a pupil with asthma in school. When the pupil feels better they can return to school activities.
- The parents/carers will always be told if their child has had an asthma attack.

Record keeping

Record keeping

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

- All parents/carers of children with asthma are then sent a letter from our school (Appendix 1) with 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. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.

Information

We have 2 information posters on display in our First Aid Room, including what to do if a child has an asthma attack.

Inclusion

- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all lessons, including PE.
- Our school does all that it can to ensure our school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma e.g. a no-smoking policy.
- As far as possible our school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.
- To help all pupils understand asthma, discussions and activities may be integrated into lessons e.g. science or PE.
- Animals in school – parents/carers are contacted to discuss and all children are supported to have full inclusion in handling furry or feathered animals

Duty of Care

Whilst our school is welcoming and fully inclusive to all pupils with asthma, staff will contact parents/carers to take pupils home if they are concerned about their welfare or are needing to provide 1:1 support for a child eg if a child is 'wheezing' or 'cannot speak in sentences'.

Our 'Asthma Medication Benchmarks'

In consultation with the School Asthma Nurse, we will support a child to take their reliever and have:

- 2 puffs when needed
- 2 further puffs if needed

A child could have up to 10 puffs. However, when a child has required 6 puffs in a short period of time, and no improvement has been seen, school will contact parents.

Links with additional school policies

All policies of Kilburn Infant & Nursery School are reviewed and adopted by the Governing Body on a three-year cycle. All policies are available to view on request to the Head teacher, and some policies are sent out annually to parents/carers.

Many policies, practices and procedures are inter-related, including:

Accessibility; Administering Medicines; Admissions; Anti-bullying; Arts; Asthma; Assessment; Attendance; Behaviour Principles; Breast Ironing; British Values; CCTV; Charging; Child on Child abuse; Child Protection; Code of Conduct; Complaints; Confidential Reporting Code; Critical Incident Management Plan; Curriculum; Data Protection; Debt Management; Disciplinary Procedure for School Staff; Dinner Money; Disability; Drugs; Educational Visits; Exclusion; External Contributors; Extremism & Radicalisation; EYFS; First Aid; Financial Regulations; Financial Procedures; Food; Freedom of Information; Governors' Expenses; Grievance; Health & Safety; Homework; Home + School Agreements; Intimate/Personal Care; IT & Disaster Recovery; Lockdown Procedures; Looked After Children; Managing Allegations; No Smoking; Online Safety; Pay; PSHE; Physical Intervention; Promoting British Values; Protected Characteristics; Private Fostering; Recruitment; Redundancy; Relationships: Relationship, Sex & Health (RSHE); School Privacy Notice; School Travel Plan; SEN; SMSC; Statement of Internal Control; Stress Management; Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions; Teacher Appraisal; Uniform & Appearance; Vexatious Complaints; Violence; Violent & Abusive Visitors; Zero Tolerance

Dissemination, Responsibility & Reviews

All relevant members of staff and the school community will receive a copy of this policy. Policy reviews/amendments will include statutory changes, and school community feedback and ideas.

The Head teacher and relevant staff will keep up to date with developments in this area by attending all relevant training, accessing literature, and cascading information to the school community.

J. Baillie
Headteacher

Policy reviewed by Governors: **Spring 2025**

