

ST ANSELM'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT POLICY

Learning and growing together through prayer, belief and love

This policy was approved by the Governing Body Pupil Committee on 18 April 2018 and will be reviewed in accordance with our Policy Review Schedule.

INTRODUCTION

St Anselm's School is committed to the rights of children to the best possible health (Article 24 UNCRC) and therefore adopts a whole school approach to the health care and management of those members of our school community with asthma. We acknowledge that asthma is a prevalent disease of child hood and also recognise that is a widespread, serious but controllable condition.

BACKGROUND

This policy has been written with the advice from Asthma UK and from the School Nurse, North West London Hospitals NHS Trust.

AIMS

At St Anselm's School we;

- Recognise that asthma is a common condition affecting many children
- Encourage and help children with asthma to participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits and the residential school journey in Year 6.
- Recognise the need for immediate access to inhalers
- Provide regular training to all staff in managing pupils with asthma, and in dealing with an asthma attack
- Recognise that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma
- Work in partnership with parents to ensure that children with asthma have the best care possible

RECORD KEEPING

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers of a child with asthma are required to fill a Consent Form (Appendix 1) stating details of medication and dosage. If there is any change in medication or dosage it is the parents' responsibility to inform the school and the Consent Form is immediately updated.

STORAGE OF MEDICINES

- Inhalers are stored in the **unlocked drawer tower** in the Medical Room which is clearly labelled by class.
- The inhalers and chambers are kept individually, in plastic containers/plastic bags clearly labelled with the pupil's name, the dosage and the expiry date of the medication.
- A list showing the pupil's name, class, dosage and the expiry date of their inhaler are displayed on the wall above the drawer tower, allowing the Welfare Assistant to contact parents when the expiry date is nearing.
- Asthmatic children are encouraged to use the inhalers independently, under the supervision of the Welfare Assistant or other member of staff.
- Every time a child uses the inhaler, it is recorded by staff in the Medical Room and the frequency of use monitored.
- Parents are informed if the child is taking it more often than is usual.

PARENTS

Parents must ensure that the school is made aware of any changes to:

- The child's medical condition
- The medical practitioner's recommendation for management of the child's asthma
- Prescribed medication
- Contact details
- Expiry date

Parents must ensure that:

- The school is provided with a spare reliever inhaler to be kept in classroom

ASTHMA ATTACKS

Usual symptoms of an asthma attack:

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Tightness in the chest
- Shortness of breath

The above symptoms do not affect everyone, however some people will get them from time to time and a few will suffer them all the time.

Common Triggers

- Colds and flu, Exercise, Cigarette Smoke, Pollen, House-dust mite, Fur and feathers, Pollution, Emotions eg: stress, Fumes from some chemicals.

If a child is having an asthma attack in school it is important to:

- Keep calm
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down and loosen any tight clothing
- Make sure the child or young person takes two puffs of the reliever inhaler (usually blue) – **if** no immediate improvement during an attack, continue take one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes, or until symptoms improve

If improvement is not shown:

- Continue to ensure that the child or young person takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute or until their symptoms improve.

Call 999 if:

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

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

The procedure for responding to an asthma attack is visibly displayed in the medical room, staffroom and every classroom.

Appendix 1

St Anselm's Catholic Primary School

I agree that the medical information contained in this Consent Form may be shared with individuals involved with my child care and education (this includes emergency services). I understand that I must notify the school of any changes in writing.

Parental Request for the Administration of Medication in School

Name of Child.....Class.....

Date of Birth.....

Please write instructions clearly

Name of Medicine	Dosage	Exp. Date	When to Give				
			M	T	W	TH	F

I.....(print name) request that the school administers the above medication to:

Name of Child.....Class.....

Signed (parent/guardian).....Date.....

**Daytime telephone contact
number.....**

Name of person agreeing to administer medicine: Mrs Dent/Mrs Patterson

The school will take all responsible care to administer medicine as prescribed.