

ST GABRIEL'S ASTHMA POLICY



St. Gabriel's Catholic Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. We welcome all pupils with asthma and ensure that they can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities.

This is achieved through:-

- Ensuring that children have access to their reliever medication immediately when needed
- All children with asthma have a care plan
- Keeping a record of all pupils with asthma on a register
- Creating a whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational that is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Helping pupils to understand asthma as a medical condition
- Making sure that all staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Working in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, staff, school nurse, parents/carers, local authority, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully

BACKGROUND

This policy has been written with advice from the school nurse and following guidelines from Asthma UK.

ASTHMA MEDICINES

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The children's reliever inhalers are kept in class, but are taken with the children when they leave the classroom. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with an in-date, clearly named inhaler at all times that does not have to go home at the end of the day. Parents are also asked to provide a spacer, again clearly named, for their child if required and that this spacer is washed regularly according to Asthma UK advice.

EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER

In the event that your child displays asthma symptoms and their inhaler has either run out or, is out of date, school will administer an emergency reliever inhaler, provided that we have written consent from someone with parental responsibility to do so. Should the school emergency reliever inhaler have to be repeatedly used for your child there may be a small charge to cover the cost of a replacement.

RECORD KEEPING

When children enrol at school their parents/carers are asked if they have any medical conditions. This is updated annually with a Data Collection sheet being sent out for any amendments to be made. There is an expectation that parents inform school as soon as possible of any changes to their child's medical needs.

Any child who is registered as having asthma is sent an asthma plan at the beginning of the year. A copy of this asthma plan is given to the child's class teacher, and one is kept in the school office. Parents/carers are also asked to advise school in writing of any short term changes in their child's care for example when they have a cold or hayfever.

If a child uses their inhaler in school it will be recorded and any irregularities are reported to parents/carers, for example if their child needs to take their asthma relief more than is usual for them.

EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY - PE

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and will have an asthma plan for them. The children's reliever medication must be taken with them when taking part in PE or any other physical activity. The children will be encouraged as they get older to take more control in remembering their medication.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise (as indicated in their asthma plan) to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

OFF SITE SPORT, SWIMMING AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The health benefits of exercise are well documented. Asthma inhalers are taken off site and are kept by the leader of the group when the child participates in swimming, sports, activities and educational visits. A copy of the child's asthma plan to be kept in the bag with medication.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

St. Gabriel's does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathered animals and has a definitive no smoking policy. As far as possible the 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 school office where they can be closely monitored, if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

IF A PUPIL IS FALLING BEHIND IN LESSONS

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. Parents may be asked to access a medical review from their Doctor. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator about the pupil's needs.

St. Gabriel's school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma.

ASTHMA ATTACKS

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma will follow that child's asthma plan in the event of an asthma attack. The procedure in an emergency is also visibly displayed in the First Aid areas.

Staff undertake asthma awareness sessions regularly.

GOOD COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND SCHOOL ABOUT CHANGES IN A CHILD'S CONDITION, MEDICATION OR CARE IS VITAL UNDUNDERPINS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS POLICY

JOHN P HAYES
HEADTEACHER

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Next review October 2024