

# CHOWBENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Asthma Policy



**Date policy agreed by Governing body:**

07/11/23

**Date for review:**

November 2024

# CHOWBENT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ASTHMA POLICY

### **The School:**

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- Ensure that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including PE, science, educational visits and out of hours activities.
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.
- Keep a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- Strive to make the whole school environment, including the physical, social, and sporting aspects favourable to pupils with asthma.
- Ensure that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who have pupils with asthma in their care, know who those pupils are and how the school's procedure to follow in the event of an asthma attack.
- Ensure that the whole school community understand asthma, its effects on children and adults, and how they can support children with this condition.

### **Asthma Medicine**

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers of all children are kept in the classroom. Staff must ensure that pupils have their inhaler with them when they are out of school at any time e.g., going to the baths, visits to the school Chapel and school trips.

Parents are advised that they should provide school with a labelled, in-date spare reliever inhaler which can be kept in the school office as an emergency back-up.

Parents are also advised to sign to have their child given an emergency school inhaler in an extreme emergency.

If a parent/carer has stated that their child requires an inhaler in school but does not supply an **in-date inhaler**, the school will take the following action.

- Send a letter to request that the inhaler and a spare be brought into school without delay. Parents should be made aware that in the event of an asthma attack, staff will be unable to follow the usual asthma emergency inhaler procedures and will be reliant on calling 999 and awaiting the emergency services.

## **Record Keeping**

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to declare any medical conditions (including asthma) that require care within school, for the school's records. At the beginning of each school year, parents are requested to update details about medical conditions (including asthma) and emergency contact numbers. All parents/carers of children with asthma are asked to complete an Asthma Care Plan and return to the school office. From this information the school keeps its asthma records. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Parents are required to update the school about any changes in their child's medication or treatment.

## **Exercise and activity – PE and games**

All children are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE. Children are encouraged/reminded to use their inhalers before exercise (if instructed by the parent/carer on the care plan) and during exercise if needed. Staff are aware of the importance of thorough warm up and down. Each pupil's inhaler will be kept in the classroom.

## **Doctor/Asthma Nurse**

The parent/carer should provide school with a copy of their child's asthma management plan (provided by the doctor or asthma nurse) if their child requires treatment different from the norm.

## **School Environment**

The school endeavours to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school will take into consideration, any particular triggers to an asthma attack that an individual may have and will seek to minimise the possibilities of exposure to these triggers.

## **Asthma Attacks – School's Procedure**

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the school procedure:

- Encourage the pupil to use their inhaler.
- Summon a first aider who will bring the pupil's Asthma Information Form and will ensure that the inhaler is used according to the dosage on the form and parents should be contacted.
- If the pupil's condition does not improve or worsens, the First Aider will follow the 'Emergency asthma treatment' procedures.
- The First Aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition.
- If there is any doubt about a pupil's condition an ambulance will be called.

## **Access and Review Policy**

The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the community through the school's website. Hard copies can be obtained from the school office.

## Chowbent Primary School Asthma Care Plan

Child's Name:	Date of Birth:
<p>Managing an asthma attack. Staff will follow the guidance from Asthma UK for managing an asthma attack. Please detail below anything different your child might need if they have an asthma attack.</p>	
<b>Your child's usual asthma signs:</b>	Please Tick
Cough	
Wheeze	
Difficulty breathing	
Other (please describe)	
<b>Frequency:</b>	
Daily/most days	
Frequently (more than five times per year)	
Occasionally (less than 5 times per year)	
Other (please describe)	
<b>Known trigger for child's asthma:</b>	
Exercise	
Weather	
Colds/flu	
Other (please describe)	

Does your child usually tell an adult if they are having difficulty breathing?	Yes	No	Name of medication and colour	Dose/number of puffs	Time required
Does your child need help to take their asthma medication?	Yes	No			
Does your child use a mask with a spacer?	Yes	No			
Does your child use a blue reliever puffer medication before exercise?	Yes	No			

Parent/Carer:		Important: Chowbent Primary School have staff who can provide routine asthma care and support children with routine asthma medication as authorised in this care plan and prescribed by a doctor. Parents have a duty to advise school immediately in writing of any changes to this plan. This information will be shared with supervising staff and emergency medical personnel if necessary.		
Name:				
Signed:				
Date:		I give permission for my child to use an emergency inhaler stored in school in the absence or fault with my child's own inhaler.	Yes	No
Emergency contact (name)				
Emergency contact telephone number(s)				

Parents and staff can contact an asthma expert nurse at Asthma UK's friendly helpline Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm Tel: 0300 222 5800 or get information at [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

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- If the pupil's condition does not improve or worsens, the first aider will follow the 'Emergency asthma treatment' procedures.
- The first aider will call for an ambulance if there is no improvement in the pupil's condition.
- If there is any doubt about a pupil's condition an ambulance will be called.

#### Additional information

The child is having an asthma attack if any of the following happens:

- Their reliever isn't helping or lasting over four hours
- Their symptoms are getting worse (cough, breathlessness, wheeze or tight chest)
- They are too breathless or it's difficult to speak, eat or sleep
- Their breathing is getting faster and they feel like they can't get their breath in properly.
- Children may complain of a tummy ache.

What to do if a child is having an asthma attack:

1. Tell them to sit up straight – don't lie down. Try to keep them calm
2. Ask them to take one puff of their reliever inhaler (usually blue) every 30-60 seconds, up to a maximum of 10 puffs
3. If they feel worse at any point while using their inhaler or they don't feel better after 10 puffs or you're worried at any time, call 999 for an ambulance
4. If the ambulance is taking longer than 15 minutes you can repeat step 2