



Yeadon Westfield Infant School

ASTHMA POLICY 2023

Review 2026

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children, and expects our staff, governors and volunteers to share this commitment. This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies.

Key Principles and Issues

- Asthma affects about 15% of the pupil population and rates are higher among disadvantaged groups. Addressing asthma issues promises to significantly improve overall attendance and achievement and especially that of disadvantaged groups. This is the justification for addressing asthma specifically.
- Pupils must be sure of immediate and unrestricted access to inhalers in the event of an attack. Pupils may need support in taking their medicine. This will maximise parental confidence and maximise attendance.
- We are formally advised by Asthma UK that reliever inhalers are inherently safe medicines.
- The school should have appropriate records of the pupil's condition. It is the duty of the parent/carer to provide and update information appropriately.
- Teachers who volunteer to assist pupils with their inhalers should have received training and be authorised by the head teacher to undertake this activity. They will then be covered by the school's employer liability insurance.
- The school's policy should consider how physical activity, off-site visits and environmental triggers may affect pupils.
- There should be clear emergency procedures for dealing with a severe attack.

- The school should have sufficient knowledge of the pupil's health to be able to advise whether or to what extent non-participation / non-attendance is affecting progress. Obviously, parents/ carers will be informed about severe attacks which take place at school.

The school's approach to asthma

The school:

- recognises that asthma is a condition affecting many children;
- welcomes all pupils with asthma to the school community;
- encourages children with asthma to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life;
- helps and encourages pupils with asthma to manage their own condition safely and effectively;
- ensures that pupils with asthma have the confidence to ask for support from the school when required.

The school believes that the Asthma Policy will:

- promote increased attendance, participation and achievement for pupils with asthma;
- enable all pupils to understand, appreciate and encourage the achievements of people with asthma;
- enable all school staff to understand and assist pupils with asthma when necessary and appropriate;
- enable appropriate opportunities for studying asthma as part of the National Curriculum.

Training

The school has a regular programme of training and staff consultation which covers all the medical conditions, including asthma, of children in their care. Regular training and updates are given for new staff, trainee teachers and other temporary staff. All staff are made aware of when and where to ask for support in dealing with medical conditions.

Using Inhalers and Responsibilities

The school understands that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Pupils are allowed to carry and use their own inhalers as soon as the parent/carer, doctor, school nurse and class teacher agree that they are mature enough to do so.

Younger children's inhalers are stored safely in the classroom and are available for use on request or when indicated.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that the child has a labelled inhaler with the issue date and child's name.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that inhalers in daily use by their child are checked termly and renewed when necessary and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that inhalers are fit for current use.

Parents/carers must supply the school with a spare inhaler for use if the child's inhaler is lost, runs out or is forgotten. Spare inhalers must also be checked/renewed annually. We are formally advised by Asthma UK that reliever inhalers are inherently safe medicines. Trained staff are insured to assist children with inhalers and nebulisers when acting in accordance with this policy. School also has asset of reliever inhalers for emergencies.

Medical Information and Responsibilities

The school has a system to inform staff of pupils' medical needs and the arrangements in place to meet them. At the beginning of the school year, or when the pupil joins the school, parents/carers have the opportunity to inform staff if their child has asthma.

Parents/carers with a child who has asthma are given a National Asthma Campaign school card to give to their child's GP or asthma nurse. Parents/carers have the responsibility of making sure that the card is completed and returned to the school. The school will send update cards on an annual basis to parent/carers for updating. Once updated these cards must be returned to the school.

If necessary or appropriate a copy of the card is carried by the pupil.

Parent/carers have the responsibility to inform the school if the medication of their child changes.

Parents/Carers have the responsibility to provide the school with an asthma plan from the doctor

The school keeps an asthma register which is updated in accordance with information from parents/carers.

The school will keep sufficient records to facilitate support for the pupil. The school does not undertake to keep definitive records of all asthma incidents.

PE/Sport/Off-site activities

The school seeks to take all practical steps to encourage and enable pupils with asthma to take part in PE.

All staff are aware that pupils must use their inhalers when they need to and will give appropriate support to children to take their inhaler before the lesson and/or warm up before exercise.

The school is working towards pupils confidently managing their own asthma condition and pupils can request opportunities to use their inhaler and to warm-up prior to PE lessons.

When classes take place off-site or away from classrooms, the school will require pupils who need them to have inhalers and make arrangements for the safe transport and storage of inhalers when it is not practical for the pupil to carry his or her own inhaler.

On extended / residential trips the school will require pupils who use inhalers to bring an appropriate supply.

Triggers for Asthma

The school undertakes to do all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children or staff with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

Actions taken include:

- A no smoking policy throughout the school.
- Housing of and access to school pets and animals will be managed to minimise the risk of asthma attacks.
- Alternatives will be used to chemicals or art materials which may trigger asthma. Where this is not possible alternative lesson activities will be provided.
- Where building works may create a dusty environment, remedial action will be taken to prevent asthma attacks.

When a child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is absent from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep due to the condition, the class teacher will initially talk to the parent/carer.

If appropriate, the class teacher will consult the school nurse and/or special educational needs co-ordinator regarding any action to be taken.

The school recognises that children with asthma may have special educational needs because of their condition.

Asthma attacks: action to take

The school follows this procedure:

- Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
- Stay calm and reassure the child.
- Help the child to breathe by ensuring that tight-fitting clothing is loosened.
- If the child is in extreme distress or has a severe attack, **call an ambulance**.

Emergency procedure/Severe attacks

A severe attack is defined as:

- the inhaler has no effect after five to ten minutes;
- the child is distressed or unable to talk;
- the child is becoming exhausted;
- the child shows signs of rapid deterioration;
- there is any doubt at all about the child's condition.

The procedure is:-

Call an ambulance!

Repeat the reliever inhaler every few minutes until help arrives. If a child is in severe distress, or experiences any loss of consciousness, call an ambulance immediately.

Minor attacks

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. A short rest period may be required.

The child's parent/carer will be told about attacks which are minor but frequent.

The child's class teacher is expected to have sufficient information to comment on the general nature of the condition and the effect it has on the pupil's educational progress

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The school does not undertake to keep definitive records of all asthma attacks.

Recording of severe attacks

In the event of a pupil having a severe asthma attack it is the responsibility of the school to inform the parent/carer.

Severe attacks will be recorded through the school's normal procedure for recording medical incidents.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to give the school contact telephone numbers in case of a severe attack. These should consist of primary parent/carer workplace and home telephone numbers, plus a further contact number (which could be other parent or relative) in case they are not reachable at workplace or home.