



**KINGS CAPLE
PRIMARY ACADEMY**

KC Asthma Policy

November 2023

Next Review Due: January 2025

Kings Caple Primary Academy Asthma Policy

Introduction

Kings Caple Primary Academy positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. We recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at school. We encourage pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers and pupils. Supply teachers, new staff and trainees are also made aware of the policy. Training is provided to first aiders as part of their paediatric/first aid training. For the size of the school there is a high proportion of staff trained.

Aims

The school aims to:

- Recognise 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 art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities.
- Recognise 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.
- Ensure that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favorable to pupils with asthma.
- Ensure that all staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack.

Asthma Medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler and spacer as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. Parents are asked to name and label all inhalers. Inhalers and spacers for specific children are kept in the child's classroom.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency). School staff will let pupils take their own inhalers with spacers when they need to. School staff will support when needed.

- School staff are trained in the correct administration of inhalers and spacers.

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 admissions form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent a School Asthma Plan to complete. Parents are asked to return them to school. From this information, the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all staff. This will include information about the dose, triggers and where the inhaler and spacer are to be stored.
- Parents are required to update the School Asthma Plans at any point that their child's medication or dose changes during the year.
- Medical conditions are recorded on ScholarPack and teachers informed. Copies of the medical register are also kept in a class file for supply staff.
- The school will contact parents when an inhaler is about to expire and again once it has expired if it is not replaced.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

- 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.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons.
- Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson.
- Teachers ensure pupils are thoroughly warmed up and down before and after the lesson to prevent asthma attacks. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler and spacer during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- Pupils with asthma will not be forced to take part in activity if they feel unwell. They will also not be excluded from activities that they wish to take part in if their asthma is well controlled.
- If a pupil has asthma symptoms while exercising, allow them to stop, take their reliever inhaler and, as soon as they feel better, allow them to return to activity. (Most pupils with asthma should wait at least 5 minutes).

- Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.
- All children requiring an inhaler and spacer must take it with them to a PE lesson. Teachers will check that pupils have them and that they are brought back into school.

Asthma attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Staff are appropriately trained to recognise an asthma attack.
- All classrooms have emergency procedures on display.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its School Asthma Pack.
- If there are no signs of improvement in a child suffering from an attack an ambulance will be called without delay

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- Understand the school asthma policy.
- Know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma.
- Know what to do in an asthma attack and follow emergency procedures.
- Attend an annual asthma training update.
- Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler.
- Tell parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack.
- Tell parents/carers if their child is using more reliever inhaler than they usually would.
- Ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom.
- Ensure the asthma care plans are up to date and relevant before a school trip/visit/event.

Pupils' roles and responsibilities

Pupils have a responsibility to:

- Treat other pupils with and without asthma equally.
- Tell an adult when they are not feeling well.
- Treat asthma medicines with respect.
- Know how to gain access to their medicine in an emergency.
- Know how to take their own asthma medicines.

Parents' roles and responsibilities

Parents and carers have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school if their child has asthma.
- Ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date school Asthma Plan for their child.
- Inform the school about any medicines their child requires during school hours and complete a 'Permission to administer medicines' form.
- Inform the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-school activities such as school team sports and complete the required paperwork.
- Tell the school about any changes to their child's medicines by updating the School Asthma Plan.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's asthma (for example, if their symptoms are getting worse or they are sleeping badly due to their asthma) by updating the School Asthma Plan.
- Ensure the child's reliever inhaler and spacer is labelled with their child's name
- Keep their child at home if they are not well enough to attend school.
- Ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor or asthma nurse

Use of the emergency inhalers

The school holds 2 salbutamol inhalers in school for use in an emergency at school.

- These will only be given to children who have written parental permission for them to use the emergency inhaler.

- They will only be given to children who are already diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler.
- They will only be used if the child does not have their own inhaler or it is faulty or empty. (See Guidance on the Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools, September 2014).