

Hose Church of England Primary School



Asthma Policy

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart" Colossians 3.23.

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Policy written by: Headteacher

Reviewed in line with Medication and Management Policy (Due Oct 2028)

Policy Principles

- Hose C of E Primary School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children.
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

We encourage children with asthma to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, the LA, parents/carers and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

Medication

Immediate access to inhalers is vital.

We have a spare salbutamol inhaler which is stored in a box in the school office for use in an emergency. It is located on top of the tall wooden filing cabinet in the corner of the office

Parents are asked to provide an inhaler for their children which is kept in a labelled box in their classroom, parents are also asked to provide an additional spacer where appropriate.

Each class has a physical list provided at the beginning of the year which details children with asthma and allergies, this is completed from information provided by parents. Information will be updated and communicated to class teachers as it is received from parents.

If a child needs to use their inhaler during the school day a letter is sent home detailing the dose and time the inhaler was taken and it is recorded in a book held within each classroom inhaler box.

School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medication when needed.

School Inhaler

From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 will allow schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies. The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.

The Schools inhaler can only be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken, or empty). If the School inhaler is used the parents/carers will be asked to purchase it so that the school can buy a replacement.

There may be exceptions to this policy where children have their own medication plan which will be agreed between school, the parents/carers and the school nurse team and/or an asthma nurse.

PE and School Sport

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their inhaler before the lesson. Each child's inhaler will be available for appropriate use during the PE lesson if needed.

If PE or School Sport activities are taking place outside of the immediate school site inhalers will be transported along with the first aid kit so children have immediate access should they be required.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school site on a trip, visit or to participate in a sporting event, their inhaler will accompany them and be made available to them at all times. Parents will be informed in the same way if their child has needed to use their inhaler while away from school.

School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a non-smoking, vaping and e-cigarette policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science or art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the break out area if any particular fumes trigger their asthma. The school does have a school dog but if furry animals was a trigger for any child with asthma or allergies the Dogs in School Policy would be reviewed immediately.

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. All students and staff members are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

Impact of Asthma on Learning

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nursing team and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks

Children diagnosed with asthma or a wheeze, which can present as:

- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Shortness of breath

They should be given 2 to 6 puffs of their reliever (blue) inhaler. If better, no action is required. If 6 to 10 puffs are needed, parents/carers need to be called and a child collected and seen by a medical professional the same day.

If little or no improvement after 10 puffs, **dial 999** but at the same time continue to give 10 puffs of inhaler every 15 minutes until medical help arrives or symptoms improve. In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's

parents/carers will always be contacted. In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they would always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent/carer is present.

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better, they can return to school activities.

The child's parents/carers will be informed about the attack immediately.

Informing Parents/Carers of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use

Parents will be informed by email or telephone if school have had to use the emergency school inhaler. Reason for the use will be discussed and next steps planned.