

Pitmaston Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. We are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure the best possible progress for all of our pupils, whatever their needs, and positively welcome all pupils with asthma. Pitmaston Primary encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils. Supply teachers are also made aware of this policy.

Asthma Medicines

The school asthma register has been updated in line with the Human Medicines Regulations (October 2014) which will now allow schools to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. The emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by pupils with a diagnosis of asthma, or who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler as medication. The inhaler can be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available because it is either broken, empty or in an emergency.

Written parental consent must be given for the administration of the school emergency salbutamol inhaler. All pupils on the asthma register are given a consent form for parents to sign and return to school.

Pitmaston Primary recognises that immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. All blue inhalers are stored in the classroom and are easily accessible by the child. Every child with asthma must have a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name and class on in school at all times.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency) and will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

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 data collection form. From this information the school updates its asthma register which is available to all staff and displayed at each First Aid point.

For those children on the asthma register, a consent form for use of the school's emergency salbutamol inhaler is sent home to parents. This will only be given to a child if written parental consent has been given.

In more severe asthma cases it may be necessary to prepare a personalised care plan for a child's asthma management. These are completed with parents and are reviewed annually.

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 and supply teachers can access this information in the class file. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Staff 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. Each pupil's inhaler will be taken to the site of the lesson and can be used by children at any time. The same principles are followed as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Inhalers are also taken to all off-site visits and activities, including extra-curricular clubs.

The School Environment

Pitmaston Primary School does all that it can to ensure that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. We do not keep any school pets and have a no-smoking policy.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

In some cases a pupil with asthma may have low attendance and/or be falling behind. This will be recognised and monitored through pupil progress meetings held each term. Initially the class teacher will talk to the parents/carers and, if appropriate, may contact the school nurse.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. Guidance from the Department of Health (September 2014) is clearly displayed at each First Aid point and all staff are provided with an information pack containing information on how to recognise an asthma attack and the procedure to be followed in the event of an asthma attack.

Procedures in the event of an Asthma Attack

All staff at Pitmaston Primary School will:

- Keep calm and reassure the child.
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Use the child's own blue inhaler – if not available use the school emergency salbutamol inhaler **only if parental consent has been given**.
- Remain with the child at all times while the inhaler and spacer is brought to them.
- Immediately help the child to take two puffs via the spacer.
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
- Continue to stay calm and reassure the child.
- Encourage the child to return to gentle activity once recovered.

We will follow emergency arrangements and call an ambulance immediately if the child:

- appears exhausted;
- has a blue/white tinge around their lips;
- is going blue;
- has collapsed;
- does not feel better after reaching 10 puffs.

If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes another 10 puffs will be given in the same way.

The school contact parents to inform them of their child's condition. Parents will also be notified if their child has used the school emergency salbutamol inhaler on the same day.

This policy was approved by the Full Governing Body on 7th October 2014.

This policy was reviewed in July 2016.