

This policy has been developed to outline the school's statutory duties to support children in school with asthma, in conjunction with 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' (Department for Education, December 2015) and 'Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools' (Department of Health, March 2015).

### **Mission Statement**

Pitmaston Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils in school. We welcome all pupils with asthma and aim to support these children to participate fully in school life. We endeavour to do this by ensuring we have:

- An up-to-date asthma policy
- An asthma register
- A designated school Asthma Champion
- All pupils with immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times
- All pupils have an up-to-date Individual Health Care Plan [IHCP] for asthma including an up-to-date asthma action plan
- An emergency salbutamol inhaler available at the three First Aid points in school
- Regular asthma training for staff
- Asthma awareness prompted for pupils, parents/carers and staff

Mrs Cameron (Inclusion Co-Ordinator) is the dedicated school Asthma Champion. Mrs Wilcock (Headteacher) and Mrs Bladen (School Business Manager) are the named individuals responsible for First Aid in school.

The school has an Asthma register which is updated regularly, including the child's name, date of birth and permission for use of the emergency inhaler. This is available to all staff and displayed in school in appropriate places. Each class has the up to date names of pupils with asthma and anaphylaxis displayed in the classroom for all teaching staff to see.

The school has three emergency salbutamol inhalers which can be used by any pupil 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.

Parental/carer consent is gained for the administration of the school emergency salbutamol inhaler. This online consent form is available to all parents/carers on Parent App. This form should also be completed by parents/carers when their child no longer needs an inhaler in school so they can be removed from the asthma register and their inhaler sent home to be disposed of.

### **Storage of Medication**

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 and adults. Every child with asthma must have a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name and class on in school at all times. Every child should also have a spacer in school to be kept with their inhaler.

All children who have been prescribed an inhaler (whether for asthma or a viral wheeze) should have been provided with an asthma care plan from the GP. Parents/carers should share this document with school and this is reviewed annually in asthma clinic or with the GP.

Every child in school with an inhaler will have an Individual Care Plan for Asthma (see Appendix 1). This must be completed by parents and school.

### **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.

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/carers and are reviewed annually.

School record every time a child uses their inhaler on Medical Tracker. Parents/carers are informed of this via email. If a child is using their inhaler over 3 times a week, parents/carers should contact their GP to request a review of their child's asthma. Parents are also notified, via Medical Tracker, if their child has used school's emergency inhaler.

All medications including inhalers, EpiPens, antihistamines and other prescribed medications in school are logged on Medical Tracker online. Parents/carers will receive a notification when their child's inhaler is due to expire and should send a new inhaler into school as soon as possible, ensuring a new medication administration form is completed on the day the new inhaler is sent into school.

### **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 are directed to access this information in the class Inclusion 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 the child at any time. The same principles are followed as described above for games and activities involving physical activity. When staff are leaving the main school building with their class e.g. to use the field or park for a lesson, a mobile phone is always taken in case of an emergency.

Inhalers are 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. There is a strict no-smoking policy. The parents/carers of any children seeing the school Pets as Therapy dog are made aware of this prior to the sessions beginning and consent is given.

### **Asthma Attacks**

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All Pitmaston staff carry out annual asthma training, guidance from the Department of Health (March 2015) 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 and have access to the asthma register.

### **Procedures in the Event of an Asthma Attack**

All staff are aware that signs of an asthma attack include:

- a persistent cough (when at rest);
- a wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest);
- being unusually quiet;
- the child complaining of shortness of breath at rest, feeling tight in the chest (younger children may express this feeling as a tummy ache);
- difficulty in breathing (fast and deep respiration);
- nasal flaring;
- being unable to complete sentences;
- appearing exhausted;
- a blue/white tinge around the lips;
- going blue.

All staff will respond to signs of an asthma attack by:

- Keeping calm and reassuring the child.
- Encouraging the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Using the child's own blue inhaler – if not available using the school emergency salbutamol inhaler.
- Remaining with the child at all times while the inhaler and spacer is brought to them.
- Immediately helping the child to take two separate puffs via the spacer immediately.
- If there is no immediate improvement, continuing to give two puffs every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs or until their symptoms improve. The inhaler will be shaken between puffs.
- Continuing to stay calm and reassuring the child, staying with them until they feel better.
- Encouraging the child to return to gentle activity once recovered.

School 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 will contact parents/carers to inform them of their child's condition.

**This policy was approved by the Resources Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

**This policy is due to be reviewed in February 2027.**



Appendix A



**Pitmaston Primary School individual healthcare plan for Asthma**

Name of school/setting	
Child's name	
Group/class/form	
Date of birth	
Child's address	
Medical diagnosis or condition	
Date	
Review date	

**Family Contact Information**

Name	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	
) Name	
Relationship to child	
Phone no. (work)	
(home)	
(mobile)	

**Clinic/Hospital Contact**

Name	
Phone no.	

**G.P.**

Name	
Phone no.	

Who is responsible for providing support in school

Describe medical needs and give details of child's symptoms, triggers, signs, treatments, facilities, equipment or devices, environmental issues etc

Name of medication, dose, method of administration, when to be taken, side effects, contra-indications, administered by/self-administered with/without supervision

Daily care requirements

Specific support for the pupil's educational, social and emotional needs

Arrangements for school visits/trips etc

Other information

Describe what constitutes an emergency, and the action to take if this occurs

Who is responsible in an emergency (*state if different for off-site activities*)

Plan developed with

Staff training needed/undertaken – who, what, when

Form copied to