

# PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



## ASTHMA POLICY

**Approval Authority**

**Effective From:** September 2023

**Date Ratified by GB:**

**Next Review Date:** September 2024

**Signed by Chair of GB:**

## **Pinner Wood School Asthma Policy**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, Asthma UK, the school and health service.

This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school encourages 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, their employers (the local education authority and pupils. Staff can access the medical list on Medical Tracker. All first aid staff that come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma within their first aid training, which is updated regularly. All school staff are also given asthma training from the school nurse each year on the September inset day.

### **MEDICATION**

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. The reliever inhalers of lower school children are kept in their classrooms and taken out for PE/trips. Upper school children carry their inhalers with them. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. School staff are willing to administer medication to children. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their medication when they need to and this will be recorded on Medical Tracker and a notification sent to the parent/carer.

### **RECORD KEEPING**

When a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma on the school's admission form. All parents/carers of children with asthma are contacted by the welfare officer for a copy of their asthma plan and to gather medication. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school staff on Medical Tracker. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school. It is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure all medication has a valid date. Medical tracker informs us when medication expires and we send a notification to the parent.

## **PE**

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Children whose asthma is triggered by exercise are reminded regularly to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Each lower school child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a cupboard in the classroom. If a child need to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

## **THE 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 policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the office corridor or welfare room if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

## **WHEN A CHILD IS FALLING BEHID IN LESSONS**

If a child is missing lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed night's sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs co-ordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

## **ASTHMA ATTACKS**

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma known what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedures:

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
2. Stay calm and reassure the child
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

## **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 must be told about the attack.

## **Emergency Inhalers**

The school have two emergency inhaler kits, one in welfare and the other in the upstairs hall.

The emergency inhalers are only to be used by children who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler. These are to be used only if a child doesn't have theirs in school, or it has run out, or misplaced.

The parents are to be informed straight away if their child has used an emergency inhaler.

Please note the inhalers and spacers are only to be used once, then thrown away.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURE**

An ambulance will be called if:

- The reliever has no improvement or minimal effect, give 10 puffs and dial 999
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- There are any doubts at all about the child's condition.