



LORDSWOOD  
SCHOOL

## Asthma Policy

Date: January 2024  
Review Due: January 2025

Reviewed Annually

At Lordswood School, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils. Our school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having clear policy and procedures that are understood by all school staff, families and pupils.

Staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with relevant annual training from the School Health Team.

## Asthma

Asthma is a condition that affects small tubes (airways) that carry air in and out of the lungs. When a person with asthma comes into contact with something that irritates their airways (an asthma trigger), the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten so that the airways become narrower and the lining of the airways becomes inflamed and starts to swell. Sometimes, sticky mucus or phlegm builds up, which can further narrow the airways. These reactions make it difficult to breathe, leading to symptoms of asthma (Source: Asthma UK).



## Asthma Medicines

Only prescribed inhalers may be used in school. Parents must complete an Asthma UK form to detail the child's needs once an inhaler is prescribed. Copies of Health Care professionals Asthma plans can be handed to the office for the attention of the SENDCo.

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler and inhalers of younger pupils will be kept in the classroom.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name. Whilst we encourage children to be independent in the use of their medicines, we recognise younger members of the school may need support with this.



## Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form.

All parents of children with asthma are then sent an Asthma UK Action Plan to complete. Parents are asked to return them to the school SENDCo. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. Asthma Action Plans are then sent to parents of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents are also asked to update the Asthma Action Plan if their child's medicines or how much they take, changes during the year.

## PE and Physical activities

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils at Lordswood. School staff are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register and individual Asthma UK Health Plans.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons.

## Impact on Education

If a child or young person is missing a lot of time from school or is tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher and SENDCo will liaise with parents to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the SENDCo will then seek advice from the School Health Team.

The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

## Asthma Attacks

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

## Action to take

(As defined by Asthma UK)

1. Sit up straight – try to keep calm / use inhaler as directed.
2. Take one puff of your inhaler (usually blue) every 30-60 seconds up to 10 puffs
3. If the child feels worse or does not feel better after 10 puffs call 999 for an ambulance
4. If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes and your symptoms are not improving, repeat step 2
5. If no improvement in symptoms, contact 999 again.



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## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### School staff

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- Attend annual training about asthma
- Understand the school asthma policy
- Know which pupils have asthma and be aware of their Asthma Plan
- Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
- Know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
- Liaise with the SENDCo and parents if a child is falling behind with their work because of their asthma

### Parents/Carers

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Inform the school of their child's asthma
- Ensure the school has a completed and up-to-date Asthma Action Plan for their child
- Inform the school about the medicines their child requires during school hours
- Inform the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, outings or field trips and other out of school hours activities such as school team sports
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's medicines.
- 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)
- Provide the school with a spare reliever inhaler (and spacer where relevant) labelled with their child's name
- Ensure their child's reliever inhaler that they take to school with them is labelled with his/her name
- Ensure that their child's reliever inhaler is within its expiry date