



Red Hall Primary School

Asthma Policy



Investor in People



RED HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Asthma Policy

Rationale

There is no legal or contractual duty on teachers, administrative staff or support staff to administer medication or supervise a pupil taking medication. It is a purely voluntary role.

At Red Hall Primary we take seriously our duty of care and consent to administer medication, subject to the conditions set out in this policy. This policy sets out general guidance but each case will be dealt with on its own merits.

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies used for supporting pupils with asthma within our school. The policy aims to take into account diversity and provide equality of opportunity. This policy is supported by the healthy and safety and pupils with medical needs policies.

Definition

We understand asthma to be a condition which causes the airways in the lungs to narrow, making it difficult to breathe. Sudden narrowing produces an attack.

Asthma sufferers have almost continuously inflamed airways and are therefore particularly sensitive to a variety of triggers or irritants. These include :

- viral infections (especially colds)
- allergies (e.g. grass pollen, furry or feathery animals)
- exercise
- cold weather, strong winds or sudden changes in temperature;
- excitement or prolonged laughing
- numerous fumes e.g. from glue, paint, tobacco smoke.

We are aware that psychological stress may sometimes make symptoms worse.

Aims

The school:

- Welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, Science, visits, outings and other out of school activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps records of all pupils with asthma and medicines they take
- Ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all pupils understand asthma
- Ensures that all staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties to ensure that the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Asthma Medicines

All inhalers must be prescribed by a doctor, and must have the medical instructions, including dosage, attached to the inhalers. Inhalers are kept in the classroom and are stored by the class teacher.

School staff are not required to administer medicines to pupils (except in an emergency). All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to in the presence of an adult.

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. All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma Card to give to their child's doctor to complete. Parents/carers are asked for them to be returned to school. From this information the school keeps an asthma register for all school staff. Each department keeps an accurate record of when children take their medication. School Asthma Cards are sent to the parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their child's medicine, or how much they take, changes during the year.

Exercise and Activity

Taking part in sports, games and activities is as essential part of school life for all our pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE lessons. All teachers remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take when needed reliever inhaler during the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson

Out of Hours Sport

All pupils at Red Hall Primary are encouraged to participate in after school clubs. Teachers and out-of-hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising. Children and staff follow the same procedures as outlined in the previous section.

School Environment

Within Red Hall Primary we ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. Our school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a non-smoking policy. The school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. The school does not allow pupils to use spray deodorant's.

Special Educational Needs

As a school we recognise that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma. If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to support the child. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and Inclusion Manager about the pupil's needs.

Asthma Attacks

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

- Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately. Whenever possible, allow medication to be taken where the attack has occurred.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until the attack is resolved.
- Help the child to breathe by encouraging them to breathe as slowly and deeply as possible.
- After the attack and as soon as they feel better, the child can return to normal school activities.
- The child's parents must be informed of the attack immediately.

Emergency situation

Call the ambulance urgently if:

- The reliever has not effect after 10-15 minutes
- The child is distressed or unable to talk.
- The child is getting exhausted.
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition.

Reviewed by Headteacher: October 2010

Review date: October 2012 or sooner as required



RED HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headingley Crescent,
Darlington
Co Durham
DL1 2ST

Headteacher : Peter Boddy

Tel : 01325 - 254770
Fax : 01325 - 254773
e-mail: admin@redhall.darlington.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: School Asthma Card

Thank you for informing us of your child's asthma. As part of accepted good practice and with advice from the Department for Education and Skills, Asthma UK and the school's governing bodies, our school has recently established a new School Asthma Policy for use by all staff.

As part of this new policy, we are asking all parents and cares of children with asthma to help us by completing a school asthma card for their child/children. Please take this card to your child's doctor/asthma nurse to fill in and return it to the school as soon as possible.

The completed card will store helpful details about your child's current medicines, triggers, individual symptoms and emergency contact numbers. The card will help school staff to better understand your child's individual condition.

Please make sure the card is regularly checked and updated by your child's doctor or asthma nurse and the school is kept informed about changes to your child's medicines, including how much they take and when.

I look forward to receiving your child's completed school asthma card.

Thank you for your help.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Boddy
Headteacher