



St Faith's

Church of England
Infant and Nursery School

Asthma Policy

"Our inclusive St Faith's family strives to enable all to achieve their full potential and inspire a community of hope and friendship. We seek excellence by ensuring a safe, respectful and flourishing learning community, where differences are celebrated and our genuine love and high expectations make a difference to all."

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." (Oscar Romero)

As a Church School, the distinctive Christian values of respect, compassion, trust, justice, friendship and community are promoted through the experiences we offer to all our pupils, to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding that they require to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. We promote the teaching and understanding of fundamental British values in order to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. We positively teach the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. Teaching the fundamental British values helps the children to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of **Asthma** in school. It reflects the consensus of opinion of all staff members. It is based on current practice and has the full agreement of the governing body. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Head teacher, teaching staff and support staff. It is our collective responsibility to raise awareness, that all policies are known, understood and used in an appropriate way.

Background

This Policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma + Lung UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, and the Governing Body. This School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school 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, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma within the 3 yearly First Aid Training.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom, in the first aid basket/cupboard. This cupboard is clearly labelled in each classroom. **They are not locked away.**
- All asthma medications are taken into the hall and outside with the child at lunchtime. They are taken outside during a fire drill and if the class go on a local area visit or an educational visit.
- Parents/carers 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/carer. It is the actual cylinder of an inhaler that needs to have a printed-out label of the child's name, not simply the box. **All children should also have a spacer.**
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency). All school staff will **support** pupils to take their own asthma medicines when they need it: **a member of staff will always be with the child when they take their inhaler.** School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy.
- Parents/ carers are informed each time a child needs to use their inhaler during the school day. They will note the time and how many puffs. Parents/carers can then monitor their child more closely at home.
- Inhalers and spacers are regularly checked and cleaned, if required. Spacers should be washed in warm soapy water.
- If inhalers haven't been used for a while, they must be given an extra squirt before use, to check that they are working.
- Inhalers, along with all medication, is checked at the beginning of each term.

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 enrolment form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK *School Asthma Card* (or an *Asthma + Lung UK child's asthma action plan if we change*) to complete alongside their child's doctor or asthma nurse. Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff.
- *School Asthma Cards* or *child's asthma action plan* are then sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card/ *plan* for a new one if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.
- When children use their inhaler, a member of staff will complete a medical administration form and inform parents/carers at the end of the day.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. Class teachers know which children in their class have asthma and pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers 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. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

Out-of-hours sport

- There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented, and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.
- Classroom teachers are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising and what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

School environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals indoors and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. The school is kept clean and well-ventilated when possible, to reduce the level of dust.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

- 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 prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs. Parents/carers will be asked to make an appointment with their doctor to review the child's asthma plan.
- 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 and have training at least every 3 years.

In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma +Lung UK.

<https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/conditions/asthma>

<https://www.asthmaandlung.org.uk/conditions/asthma/asthma-attacks>

Safeguarding procedures

At St Faith's we have a positive culture of safeguarding, with effective policies and procedures in place. Our safeguarding procedures are outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which can be found on our website <https://stfaithscofe.secure-primariesite.net/safeguarding-information-and-policies/>.

Signed: (Chair of Governors)	Rob McCracken
Signed:	Hayley Palmer
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