



# Alsager Highfields Primary School

*Mighty oaks from small acorns grow*

## Asthma Policy

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Chair of Governing Body: A Stancliffe

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Date:

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# **Asthma Policy for Pupils**

## **Statement of Intent**

About one in seven children have asthma and numbers are increasing. We want to make sure that having asthma does not mean children losing out when they are at school. Most children with asthma can have a full and active life. This policy will help pupils with the management of their asthma while they are at school. This policy supplements the 'Medicine in School and 'Health and Safety' policies.

## **Asthma Register**

- When a child joins Alsager Highfields part of their admission pack is a form to alert the school to asthma needs. The return of this completed form will ensure that they are added to our Asthma Register. The Asthma Coordinator (Miss Eden) will collate the register and contact parents/carers to complete a School Asthma Card and obtain the necessary inhalers to be held in school. The Asthma Register is updated annually.

## **Indemnity**

- Staff who are happy to administer medication will be provided with indemnity.
- In emergencies staff should act as any prudent parent would, which may include giving medication.
- Each inhaler provided by parents/carers for pupils to use must be within date, named and prescribed with an appropriate pharmacy label.

## **Access to Inhalers**

- Individual pupils' inhalers are kept in a purple bag in their classroom.
- Children are allowed access to their inhaler at any time of the school day, should they feel the need to use it.
- Inhalers should accompany them when taking part in off-site activities or residential etc.
- Inhalers should be taken outside along with the Fire Register during fire drills.

## **Staff Awareness and action in asthma emergencies**

- All staff need to be able to manage attacks. Staff will do what a 'reasonable parent' would do in the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- For mild attacks children should take their usual reliever inhaler as per the instructions.
- For severe attacks a metered dose inhaler should be used. Encourage relaxation. An asthma bag is kept in each classroom for the children to access.

- If the child does not:
- Feel better in 5-10 minutes
- Is distressed or exhausted
- Is unable to talk in sentences
- Has blue lips
- Or you have any doubts

Then action is required:

- One adult should stay with the pupil and use reliever inhaler via the spacer whilst another adult dials 999 for an ambulance and state that the child is having a severe asthma attack and requires immediate attention.
- Continue to give the relief inhaler while help arrives as per the instruction on the inhaler.
- Inform parent/carer of the situation and action taken.
- The incident should then be recorded on the Asthma Register and the entry should be named and dated.

### **Forgotten or Lost Inhalers**

- if a child's condition does not indicate the need to dial 999 i.e. not a severe attack, the school will contact parents to bring in an inhaler or to collect their child.
- If the child is experiencing a severe attack 999 will be called without delay.

### **Training**

- The head teacher is responsible for assessing and arranging training needs.
- Posters containing emergency information are displayed at key points.

### **Home/School Liaison**

- Parents/carers are asked to complete and update asthma records on admission and to then review them annually. They are also expected to update them more frequently if the condition or medication changes.
- Absence of parental consent should not stop staff from acting appropriately in emergencies.
- Parents/carers are informed if an inhaler is used during the day and the member of staff administering the medication will inform Miss Eden who will update the Asthma Register.

## **Minimising exposure to triggers**

Where possible...

- We will avoid feathery or furry school pets
- We will avoid pollen producing plants
- There is a complete ban of smoking in or on site.