

Airedale Infant School

'Ambition - Bravery - Respect'

Asthma Policy

September 2020

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

Airedale Infant School:

- recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- keeps a register of children with asthma
- ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.
- staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma annually, from the asthma nurse.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parents, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler and spacer. It is parents'/carers' responsibility to ensure that the inhaler is up to date and in working condition.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this.

All school staff will allow children to take their own medication when they need to.

In case of emergencies, the school is registered to keep asthma kits at the first aid stations which include a salbutamol inhaler and spacer. Staff are given training annually to support this.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. All parents of children with asthma are given a School Asthma Card to give to their child's GP or asthma nurse to complete and return to the school. From this information, the school keeps an asthma register. If medication changes, parents are asked to inform the school.

Airedale Infant School does hold emergency inhalers as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf

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PE/Sports

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints before the lesson. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs 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 does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals for example in art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma.

Children with asthma are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk

Asthma Attacks

Staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

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.**
4. **Continue to aid the child to use their inhaler.**
5. **If there is no relief after 5 minutes; the child is either distressed or unable to talk; the child is getting exhausted or you have any doubts at all about the child's condition, phone 999 for an ambulance.**

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

When a child has taken their inhaler, the child's parents will be informed at the end of the day, either in person or by completing a slip giving details of the asthma attack.

Complaints

Should you be dissatisfied with the support provided by Airedale Infant School you should discuss your concerns directly with the school. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, you may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure.

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This policy is a working document and therefore is open to change and restructuring as appropriate and necessary due to statutory guidance.

Reviewed June 2020

To review June 2021