

# **LUXULYAN C P SCHOOL**

## ***Policy Co-ordinators – ANDREW GIBSON AND JOANNE TONKIN***

### **Asthma Policy**

***Date:*** Dec 2017

***Review Date:*** Dec 2019

#### **Introduction**

At Luxulyan CP School we recognise that asthma is an increasingly common condition amongst children. It ranges in severity from the occasional wheeziness to severe attacks and shortage of breath and at its most severe can be fatal. In the vast majority of cases pupils with asthma should be able to take part in all areas of school life

#### **Purpose and Aims**

- clarify how asthma will be managed within school
- To ensure that staff, parents, governors, visitors and pupils understand their roles and responsibilities in the management of pupils with asthma

#### **Guidelines**

It is essential that we understand how to deal with asthma medication and inhalers effectively. There are two main types of treatment, both of which come in an inhaler.

RELIEVERS - which help the child's breathing difficulties,

PREVENTORS - which make airways less sensitive. These will not normally be used during the school day.

Children with exercise-induced asthma should take their inhaler as directed before they start exercise. They should bring inhalers to the hall, swimming pool and Sports Fields. Children who say they are too wheezy to continue, should take their reliever inhaler and rest until they feel better.

Teachers should be aware that some children are shy in public when taking their inhalers. We will ensure that other children understand asthma so that they can support their friends.

In order to make our school asthma friendly we have adopted appropriate measures

- the school is a non-smoking environment
- Chemicals, cleaning materials and aerosols sprays are not used whilst pupils are present.
- Pets are housed away from the classroom. .

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

PARENTS should:

- ensure their child's diagnosis is regularly reviewed, and inform the school about treatment details and changes

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- ensure their child attends regular reviews at their GP surgery
- ensure that their child's inhaler is full and up to date, and ensure any spacer, if used, accompanies the inhaler.
- ensure the inhaler is taken home at the end of the term, and returned to school at the start of the new term.
- advise the school of any changes to their child's treatment needs.

#### **Key stage 1**

- help their child identify the onset of the symptoms of asthma and understand the need to ask for assistance,
- ensure their child knows how to use their inhaler with support or independently.

#### **Key stage 2**

- ensure their child can identify correctly the symptoms of asthma, understands the need to ask for assistance, and can use their inhaler independently.

#### **TEACHERS should:**

#### **Key Stage 1**

- ensure that the class box of inhalers is kept in a clearly labelled box
- ensure that children have access to their inhaler when they need it
- ensure that all inhalers are taken on school trips and given to appropriate adults.
- informally monitor each child's use of their inhaler, and response to the medication

#### **Key stage 2**

- children keep their own inhaler in school ensure that children have access to their inhaler when they need it
- ensure children are aware of their responsibility to bring their inhalers themselves on trips
- Children should tell an adult when they experience the worsening symptoms of asthma or any difficulties use their inhaler independently and sensibly ensure that their inhaler is kept safe.
- tell their parents when they have used their inhaler in school

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#### **Practical measures in case of an Asthma attack**

- stay calm and reassure the child
- encourage them to sit down, fairly upright or leaning forwards slightly, as they feel most comfortable
- let them take their inhaler as directed
- repeat the dose if necessary after 5 minutes
- if the child is still very breathless or is unable to complete a short sentence, parents should be contacted and/or medical advice sought. At this stage give a further 6 puffs of their reliever inhaler should be administered

#### **Information on individual children**

A list of children who use inhalers will be kept in the secretary's office and will be displayed on the staffroom noticeboard.

Key Stage 1 inhalers will be located in a box in each classroom.

Key Stage 2 inhalers will be located in the pupils' own bags/lockers for immediate access.

#### **Review**

##### **Policy Development**

This policy was developed in consultation with the Headteacher, staff, governors and health professionals.

This policy should be reviewed every two years.