

ASTHMA POLICY

The Principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The 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 records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand 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

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. This school encourages children 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 teachers, and at least one member of staff in each class is provided with training on asthma regularly. Mrs Jones has a list of school staff trained in this area. This is provided by the School Nursing Service which also covers Severe Allergic Reactions and Epilepsy.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler and spacer as soon as the parents, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. If this is the case, parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. The class teacher will hold this separately in case the child's own inhaler runs out or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent.

The reliever inhalers and spacers of all other children are kept in the classroom. The storage place of each class's inhalers is marked by a clear sign at the entrance of the classroom.

School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medication when it is appropriate that they do so.

All inhalers in school must be kept in the original packaging with the dispensing label.

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 an (Asthma UK) School Asthma Card to complete and return to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school staff. Cards are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

Hatton Hill Primary School does now hold an emergency inhaler and spacer as per '**Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools**' March 2015. Specific staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler and there is pictorial and written instructions around the school.

Parents of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available. See Appendix 1 attached. Parents will be informed by letter if their child has used the emergency inhaler (Appendix 2).

The school holds inhalers for each child and they are regularly checked for expiry dates by a member of staff.

PE

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. 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, although on occasion, classes do take part in the egg/chick scheme. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave join another classroom if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

When a Child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nursing team and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks and Emergency Procedures

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

- 1. Help them sit up straight and keep calm**
- 2. Help them take one puff of their reliever (usually blue) every 30-60 seconds, up to maximum of 10 puffs.**
- 3. Call 999 for the ambulance if:**
 - Their symptoms get worse while they're using inhalers – this could be a cough, breathlessness, wheeze, tight chest or sometimes a child will say they have a 'tummy ache'**
 - They don't feel better after 10 puffs**
 - You're worried at any time.**
- 4. You can repeat step 2 if the ambulance is taking longer than 10 minutes**
- 5. NEVER LEAVE THE CHILD ALONE**

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate

After a minor attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The classteacher should ensure the child's parents are informed via the school office.



APPENDIX A

Consent Form: Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler (delete as appropriate)
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with the dispensing label, which is kept at school.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, *I do/ *do not consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

*please mark as appropriate

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name: (print) _____

Child's Name: _____

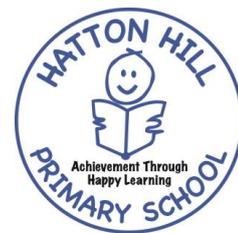
Class: _____

Parent's address and contact details:

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Please return to the school office as soon as possible c/o Mrs Jones (SENDco)



APPENDIX 2

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use Form

Child's Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Dear _____

This letter is to formally notify you that _____ has had problems with his/her breathing today. This happened when _____

*They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given _____ Puffs.

*Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given _____ puffs.

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Jones
SENDco

*Delete as appropriate