

# Tempo Primary School



## ASTHMA

### (POLICY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IN SCHOOL)

January 2021

Date ratified by Board of Governors:

Signed Chair Board of Governors; \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed Principal; \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

*"One more step along the world I go."*

# Asthma

## Introduction

Tempo Primary 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 and encourages them to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life.

In order to ensure this an asthma policy was drawn up taking account of:

- Supporting Pupils with medication needs (dhsspsni 2008)
- Asthma Awareness for school staff (Asthma UK)
- School Policy Guidelines (Asthma UK)

## Aims

The school aims to:

- ensure that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities
- ensure that pupils with asthma have immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- keep a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take recognising the role that parents have in keeping the school informed.
- ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- ensures that all pupils understand asthma
- ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- work in partnership with all interested parties including parents/carers, medical professionals and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

## 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 through the completion of a data collection form. Parents must inform the school immediately if any diagnosis is made during the school year.
- From this information the school keeps its asthma register, a copy of which is available to all school teaching staff and any relevant non-teaching staff.
- All parents/carers of children who have mentioned asthma on the data collection sheet are sent an *Asthma UK School Asthma Card* to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. (A copy of the letter sent home with the card can be found in appendix A). Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school.
- *School Asthma Cards* are then sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. It clearly states on the card that it should be reviewed once a year and information updated.

## **Asthma medicines**

- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils
- School staff are made aware of what to do in an asthma attack. In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom. Copy in appendix B
- All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are safely stored in classrooms where they are easily accessible.

- For pupils who carry their own inhalers (e.g. those who travel by bus) parents/carers 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 pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- While it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that medicines are in date, teachers are asked to check the expiry dates of medicines at the beginning of each term.

### **Relievers (usually blue)**

- Immediate access to reliever medicine is essential when symptoms start. Every child with asthma should carry a reliever inhaler, clearly labelled with his/her name. They should always be available during physical education, sports activities, swimming and educational visits. Children who are able to use their reliever inhaler themselves should be allowed to carry it with them. Asthma UK recommends that the reliever should be used in combination with a spacer device. It is the parent's/carer's responsibility to ensure that all inhalers that are taken to school are still in date. A spare inhaler will be requested from parents and kept in the school First Aid cupboard for emergencies. Parents must complete relevant forms from Medication Policy.

### **Preventers (may be brown, red, orange or white)**

- These are usually taken outside of school hours.

## **Exercise and activity – PE and games**

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all teachers taking P.E. classes are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.
- 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.

**Tempo Primary School Consent Form (used in conjunction with  
Medical form)**

**Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler**

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 their name, one of which is kept in their schoolbag (or in school for a younger child); I will supply the school with an additional inhaler for my child, clearly labelled with their name and class.
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: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's D.O.B: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's address:

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Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Name:

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Doctor's Surgery:

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