

EARLSMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Asthma Policy

(Includes First Aid information and information about supporting children with asthma)



SUCCESS *for* ALL

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MISSION STATEMENT

At Earlsmead Primary School we encourage all members of our school community to strive to be the best they can be and develop new skills that empower them for life- long learning in order to become confident, valuable, members of society.

We create an inclusive, supportive, safe and challenging environment where all contributions are valued.

Learning is motivating and independence is encouraged hence all become reflective, self-learning team members with a positive sense of wellbeing and a love of learning.

OUR VISION

Working in partnership with children, parents, staff and Governors as a community we will achieve *Success for All* through:

Securing resilience

Understanding values and respecting others

Committing to our learning

Community involvement

Equality for all

Striving to do our very best

Setting high expectations

Earlsmead School Medical and Welfare

Earlsmead is classed as an Asthma Friendly School – January 2023

Asthma Lead – Jackie Stangroom

Introduction

A high percentage of children in the UK suffer from asthma. Most of these children can expect to lead a normal life if medication is taken regularly and properly. However, periodically some children may experience asthma attacks.

Asthma causes the airways in the lungs to narrow, making it difficult to breathe. Sudden narrowing produces an attack of asthma. A child's inflamed airways may react quicker to certain triggers (irritants) that do not affect children without asthma. The things that can trigger asthma vary from child to child. The known triggers include:

- Viral infections (especially common colds)
- Allergies, i.e., food, dust, feathers, pollen etc.
- Exercise
- Cold weather or strong winds
- Sudden changes in temperature
- Fumes from some glues/paints, tobacco smoke
- Pets/pet hairs

Aims

To ensure that the school is aware of all children diagnosed with asthma/asthma type conditions.

To enable all pupils with asthma to participate fully in school life.

To ensure that ALL staff are able to deal with an asthma attack.

To encourage all children with asthma to take responsibility for their own medication as far as is appropriate.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

On joining the school, all parents/guardians will be asked to complete a form related to the medical background of their child. An Individual Medical/Health Care Plan will then be drawn up for each child, outlining the particular condition, medication and details about when and if the medication should be taken.

Parents will ensure prescribed asthma reliever inhaler and spacer device is sent into school where appropriate-labelled with their child's name, date of birth, medication name and expiry date.

Parents will provide the school with an up-to-date asthma action plan for their child, completed by the health professional who supports their child's asthma management-this may be the GP, practice nurse, asthma nurse or consultant.

Parents will be expected to keep the school up to date about their child's condition, and any changes in medication.

Parents will ensure their child knows how to correctly use their asthma inhaler where age or developmentally appropriate.

Implementation

Asthma pumps will be kept in class, somewhere easily accessible for the child.

One inhaler per child will be kept in their yellow medical bag.

The medical bags are to be taken to all class activities outside the classroom.

At playtime and lunch time the child will take their yellow bag with them. It is the responsibility of staff in the classroom to ensure that children take their bags with them.

Individual Medical Record Sheets for each child will be kept in the medical bags. These are to be completed on each occasion the inhaler is used.

A record of medication administered will be kept for each child. Parents will be notified if additional medication is needed.

The Welfare Officer will check the asthma pumps on a regular basis, to ensure that nothing is out of date, broken or missing, and information will be regularly updated.

An emergency inhaler and spacer are located in the Welfare cupboard, (this is to be used for asthmatic children ONLY). Welfare is accessible to out of hours school staff for such emergencies.

Role of the Welfare Officer

- To keep a record of children who suffer from asthma in a place accessible and known to other staff and to update records when necessary.
- To liaise with staff and parents about the needs of children with asthma and any changes in medication.
- To ensure that each class teacher has information about asthmatic children in their medical bags and the relevant Individual Medical Record Sheets.
- To ensure that each medical bag has spacers and relievers for the child in their yellow medical bag.
- In an emergency, to attend to a severe asthma attack and accompany the child (or adult) to hospital.
- To ensure that new staff are aware of policy procedures.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

ANY OF THESE SIGNS INDICATE A SEVERE ATTACK

- Normal relief medication does not work
- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Child is breathless enough to have difficulty talking normally
- Blue tingeing around the mouth
- Rapid pulse rate
- Rapid breathing
- Tummy or Chest ache- to be aware that younger children often complain of tummy ache when it's actually their chest that is causing discomfort

PROCEDURE

1. Don't panic!
2. Sit person down and reassure them.
3. Administer usual relief inhaler.
4. If symptoms persist, administer **up to six puffs of the inhaler** via spacer where available
5. Send a responsible person (child or adult) to fetch a member of the Welfare Team.

If the condition does not improve:

- a) Call for Emergency Services, following the school procedures, alerting them that you have a child/adult suffering a severe asthma attack.
 - b) Continue to deliver up to 10 puffs of the inhaler every 15 minutes until assistance arrives or the child recovers.
 - c) Inform parents and arrange for them to meet with the child and school staff at Accident and Emergency.
6. Welfare Officer or Responsible Adult to accompany the child to hospital by car or ambulance.