



Copnor Primary School

Asthma Policy

This policy has been reviewed with advice from the DCSF, National Asthma Campaign, the LA, the school Health Service, parents, governors and pupils.

This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.

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 (LA) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All other staff (support staff) working in school are made aware of the contents of the policy.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. The reliever inhalers are kept in individual wallets in classrooms. All inhalers are labelled with the child's name by the parent. Staff who administer medicine are insured by the LA when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.

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 National Asthma Campaign 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 its asthma register which is available for all school staff. If medication changes, parents are asked to inform the school in writing.

In more serious cases the Community Asthma Nurse may have written out a detailed plan and it is essential that parents supply the school with this.

However, it may be that the child's requirements have to change over the short-term (for instance if the child has a cold.) If a temporary change is required please complete a "Change of Asthma Treatment" form which is kept in reception. The school will then act on these written instructions until they receive further notification from the parents. The parent would simply be required to complete another form to say that the child needs to return to the details on their normal asthma planning.

The First Aider is responsible for maintaining the asthma register.

PE

Taking part in PE and sports is an essential part of school life and should be the goal for all but the most severely affected children with asthma. All teachers are aware of which children have asthma in their class from the asthma register.

Teachers taking PE classes have an important role in supporting and encouraging pupils with asthma. They should:

- make sure that they know which children in their class have asthma
- be encouraging and supportive to pupils with asthma
- remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take a dose of reliever medication a few minutes before they start the lesson
- encourage children with asthma to do a few short sprints over a five minute period to warm up
- make sure those children have their reliever inhalers in the PE hall or the playground
- make sure that children who say they need their asthma medication take their reliever inhaler and rest until they feel better
- speak to the parents if they are concerned that child has undiagnosed asthma

- make time to speak to parents to allay their concerns or fears about children with asthma participating in PE

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 feathered pets and has a non-smoking policy. The school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the school asthma friendly

As the situation arises, other children in the class are made aware of the difficulties for children who have asthma and their need for regular medication. This would be re-indorsed through the science curriculum (the role of drugs as medicines). It can also be referred to in PE.

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 and inform the headteacher. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and SENCO about the situation. The school recognise that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

Asthma attacks

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.

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
2. Stay calm and reassure the child – hold their hand but do not put your arm round their shoulders as this restricts breathing
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened
4. The class teacher will always ensure that he/she takes the child's inhaler on a school trip with them in case an attack occurs

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The child's parents must be told about the attack and informed that the child has used their inhaler – a letter is sent each time the inhaler is given.

Emergency procedures

Call 999 if:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

N.B. Each reliever inhaler is prescribed for an individual patient only and cannot be used by anyone else.

Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

From October, 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No 2) Regulations 2014 will allow all primary schools to keep a salbutamol inhaler within school for use in emergencies (please see attached letter).

Spacers

All spacers will be sent home at the end of each term so that parents can wash them and return them to school.

Dissemination

All parents of children with asthma will be given a copy of the policy. The policy will be sent to all new parents of children with asthma. A copy of the Asthma policy can be found in the policies folder of our website, within the safeguarding section.

Headteacher..... Date.....

Date policy was reviewed..... Sept 2017

Next review date..... Sept 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: The School Asthma Card

I am pleased to advise you that this school takes its responsibilities to pupils with asthma very seriously.

As part of accepted good practice, we are now asking all parents of pupils with asthma to help us to complete a School Asthma Card for their child each year. Please complete this card and return it to the school.

The completed card will have details of the pupil's current treatment and also what steps to take if they should have an asthma attack at school. The card will help school staff to ensure that pupils with asthma receive the best possible treatment at all times.

Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Brawley', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr D Brawley
Headteacher

11th June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

EMERGENCY ASTHMA INHALER

From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 will allow all primary and secondary schools in the UK to keep a salbutamol inhaler within school for use in emergencies. We are very keen to develop and manage practices to support pupils with medical conditions and have procedures in place on managing medicines on school premises.

Whilst the decision to hold an emergency salbutamol inhaler is at the discretion of the Headteacher, we believe an inhaler for emergency use will have many benefits, particularly as asthma is the most common chronic condition affecting children. It could prevent an unnecessary and traumatic trip to hospital for a child, and potentially save their life.

According to guidelines the school can purchase a small quantity of inhalers and spacers for emergency use. To avoid possible risk of cross-infection the plastic spacer will not be reused, although the inhaler can be reused provided it is cleaned after use. The emergency inhaler will only be used by children with asthma when their own inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken or empty) and the consent form has been returned. A record will be kept of all pupil's who have consent to use the emergency inhaler and a letter will be sent home to the parent informing them if the emergency inhaler has been used.

A register of children in school that have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a reliever inhaler will be kept with the emergency inhaler, together with the parental consent form. It will be the parents' responsibility to write and inform us if they wish their child to be removed from this register.

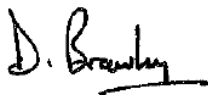
To be included on the emergency asthma inhaler register the following criteria must be met:

- i) The child has been prescribed an inhaler which has been brought into school.
- ii) The correct consent form has been completed and returned giving parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler, a copy of which will be kept with the register and emergency inhaler.

Please note this is not a replacement inhaler for your child's prescribed inhaler and will only be used in school in an emergency.

If you would like your child to be included on the emergency asthma register please complete the consent form which can be obtained from the school office.

Yours sincerely



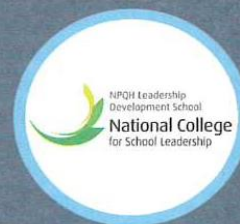
D Brawley



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**CONSENT FORM
USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER
COPNOR PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma and has been prescribed an inhaler.
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which they will bring with them/keep in school every day.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, I consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

Signed: Date:

Name (print): Relationship:

Child's name (print)

Class:

Parent's address and contact details:

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Telephone: Home:

Work:

Mobile:

Email: