

LEYS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Asthma Policy

Background

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children at the school. The school positively welcomes all children with asthma. This school encourages pupils 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 children.

Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training. Training is updated regularly (staff training was last held on 10th December 2020).

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that all inhalers are in date. Children 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 kept in the staffroom and are easily accessible by all staff.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. All school staff will let children take their own medicines when they need to and will assist where necessary.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parent(s)/carer(s) are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form or the data collection form sent home. If a child has asthma an asthma card is provided and updated annually.

When a child takes their inhaler in school it is recorded on their individual healthcare record and initialled by staff to acknowledge they have seen it being taken.

Exercise and activity – P.E. and games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all children. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all teachers at the school 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. It is agreed with staff that each child's inhaler will be accessible in the staffroom. If a child needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so immediately.

Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Out-of-hours sport and after school clubs

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve children with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.

Classroom teachers and out of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All staff are provided with regular training.

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 or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.

Making the school asthma-friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in the National Curriculum Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parent(s)/carer(s) to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and SENCo about the child's needs.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK, "How to deal with an asthma attack". This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom.

The school has an emergency asthma kit in case a child's inhaler has expired and /or they do not have one in school. Parents have been informed that school has this and their permission has been sought to use it, if the need arises.

Policy: Spring 2021