



Asthma Policy

St Paul's Church of England Primary School

Fountain of Life

Overflowing generosity Recognise

& Illuminate

Way of Life

All God's Children

Reaching out to others

Devotion to each other and God

*For with you is the Fountain of life; **in your light we see light.** (Psalm 36 vs9)*

Inspired by God's love for us, we illuminate the goodness in others, we care for and protect His children and reach out to help others flourish in their journey to the fullness of life.

Policy reviewed on September 2025



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1 Introduction

St Pauls Primary School:

- Recognises that asthma is a serious condition affecting many school age children;
- Ensures that pupils with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE/Forest School/Trips;
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital;
- Keeps records of pupils with asthma and the medication they take, when the pupil takes that medication & whether the School's emergency Salbutamol reliever was required to be used;
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma;
- Ensures that other pupils understand asthma as appropriate to their age;
- 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 that policy is implemented and maintained successfully.

School Asthma Policy

This Policy has been written with advice from the NHS UK, Asthma + Lung UK, Parents, First Aiders and asthma sufferers. Mrs Watkins will be the lead staff member for 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, the Governors and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who comes into contact with pupils with asthma will know who amongst school staff is first aid trained to assist with effective treatment.

3 Medication.

Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse and Class Teacher agree they are mature enough. It is the Parents' responsibility to ensure that the School is provided with labelled inhalers and spacers.

Depending on how severe the pupil's symptoms are, they may be offered either:

- an inhaler to use only when you get symptoms – this is called an anti-inflammatory reliever (AIR) inhaler
- an inhaler to use every day to help prevent symptoms, as well as when you get symptoms – this is called a maintenance and reliever therapy (MART) inhaler
- 2 separate inhalers – a preventer inhaler to use every day to help prevent symptoms, and a blue reliever inhaler to use when you get symptoms (you should not be given a blue reliever inhaler to use on its own)

The inhalers of children will be stored in the classroom in a container with medication clearly named. All staff and children in the class will know its location which will also be flagged up clearly in the room for supply teachers, photographs of children with medical needs are listed in the emergency fire register folder. KS1 teachers will take inhalers when their class goes off site KS2 children will take their own inhalers when going off site. 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 agrees to do this are insured by the St. Paul's when acting in accordance with this policy.

All School staff will let pupils take their own medication when they need to. In an emergency where a pupil is having an attack i.e. if the School have called for an Ambulance, and that pupil does not have a reliever inhaler/spacer in school, in school or the reliever inhaler runs out, the School has a supply of emergency reliever inhalers & single use spacers available as this may potentially be a life-saving response.

In this situation, the use of a spacer is strongly recommended and the other pupil's reliever and spacer should be cleaned with an anti-bacterial wipe before use.

Inhalers need to be cleaned and stored well so they can work properly.



- Care should be taken not to muddle the components as this could pose a risk to the child.
- Inhalers should be stored in a place which is accessible for use in the event of an asthma attack.
- Store inhalers at room temperature, avoiding direct sunlight or cold temperatures.
- Keep the cap on inhalers while out of use to avoid dust and debris from getting into the mouthpiece.
- Keep inhalers dry as moisture can affect how the medicine works.

4 Record keeping.

When a pupil starts at school, medical conditions, if any, including Asthma are noted. These conditions are noted on a record for medical conditions and Parental Consent which is held in the School office and in addition in the individual class registers. A dedicated Register of pupils suffering from asthma is also held. School will expect to receive a copy of the GP/ Hospital produced written Personal Asthma Action Plan (PAAP) for the pupil. When medicine/asthma inhaler is administered, this is recorded in the School, on our Minor Injuries Log/ School Accident/Incident Report form as applicable.

5 Emergency Evacuation of Premises

In the event of a fire drill or any evacuation procedure Teachers MUST take the box of inhalers out with them from their classrooms.

Medication stored in the school office will be brought out by School Office staff.

6 PE/Forest School/Trips.

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which pupils have asthma from the School Asthma register. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE but will not be forced to take part in that activity if they feel unwell. Likewise, they will not be excluded from participation if their asthma is well controlled. If needed when on site a pupil or TA may fetch the box from the Classroom.

When off-site (trip, forest school, swimming), teachers will take Asthma medication with them. Children with asthma can take 2-4 puffs from their reliever prior to activity dependent on their personal needs and PAAP.



7 The School environment.

The School does all that it can to ensure the School environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The School does not keep furry or feathery pets and has a non-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.

Pupils are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the Office if particular fumes trigger their asthma. School complies with CLEAPPS advice.

8 When a pupil is falling behind in lessons.

If a pupil 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 that Teacher will then talk to the School nurse and SENCO about the situation, the School recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

9 Asthma attacks.

Asthma attacks. The School will normally follow these steps if asthma signs and symptoms are noted:

- Keep calm and reassure the child
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Use the child's own reliever inhaler – if not available, use the School's emergency inhaler
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them
- If they have a blue reliever inhaler, they should take 1 puff every 30 to 60 seconds until they feel better, up to a maximum of 10 puffs. Shake the inhaler between each puff and use a spacer with the inhaler if you have one. They should lift their chin slightly before breathing in.
- If they have an AIR or MART inhaler (used for both preventing and treating symptoms), they should take 1 puff every 1 to 3 minutes until you feel better, up to 6 puffs. They should lift their chin slightly before breathing in.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities* when they feel better
- If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before they have reached maximum dose or 10 minutes has lapsed, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another course of puffs in the same way

*If the pupil's PAAP has a different maximum dose for treating an asthma attack, staff will follow that dosage.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a pupil's involvement in School. When they feel better, they can return to school activities*. The pupil's parents/carers must be told about the attack. A letter will be sent to



parents/ carer informing them that either the child's own reliever was administered, or the School's emergency reliever was used & the reason why this was necessary.

10 Emergency procedure

Contact Ambulance Service on 999 and parent urgently from the School Office if:

1. The reliever has no effect after 10 minutes
2. The casualty is either distressed or unable to talk
3. The casualty is getting exhausted or cyanosed (blue lipped)

If pupil has forgotten reliever or the contents run out during treatment, then the use of **School's emergency Inhaler will be utilised.**

1 Important things to remember in Asthma attacks:

- Never leave a pupil having an asthma attack;
- If the pupil does not have their inhaler and/or spacer with them, send another teacher or pupil to their classroom or assigned room to get their spare inhaler and/or spacer;
- In an emergency situation school staff are required under common law, duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent;
- Reliever medicine is very safe. During an asthma attack do not worry about a pupil overdosing;
- Send another pupil to get another Teacher/Adult if an Ambulance needs to be called;
- Contact the pupil's parents or carers immediately after calling the Ambulance/doctor;
- A member of staff should always accompany a pupil taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until their parent or carer arrives.
- Generally, staff will not take pupils to hospital in their own car. However, in some emergency situations it may be the best course of action.
- Another adult will always accompany anyone driving a pupil having an asthma attack to emergency services.
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If the asthma attack was brought on by physical exertion/ PE activities it would be prudent for the pupil not to participate for the rest of that school day.

14 Training of staff

All school staff must attend face to face asthma awareness training at least every 2 (Herefordshire) years. This can be through the school nursing service (Herefordshire only) or an independent provider. Asthma awareness training must be completed in conjunction with First Aid training to ensure staff are competent to manage an asthma attack.

Asthma awareness should be a minimum of 30 minutes and include the following elements:



St Paul's Church of England Primary School Asthma Policy

- **What is Asthma and why it is important**
- **Asthma Triggers**
- **Asthma signs and symptoms**
- **How to use an inhaler**
- **Cleaning and disposal of inhalers / spacers**
- **What to do if a child has an asthma attack**