

Trevithick Learning Academy



ASTHMA POLICY

The principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- 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 the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. 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 (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma regularly, from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever medication is vital. Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parents, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the classroom. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. 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 agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. **All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.**

An emergency inhaler is kept in the medicine cabinet in the staff room and can be administered in the absence of the child's own inhaler **but** only if they are listed on the School Asthma Register and we have written consent from the parent/carer to administer an emergency inhaler.

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 School Asthma care plan to complete and return to school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school staff. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever as and when necessary. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

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 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 children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

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. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education 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 child's named reliever inhaler is taken immediately. If this is not available or not useable the emergency inhaler will be used.**
- 2. Stay calm and reassure the child.**
- 3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.**

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.

Emergency procedure

An ambulance will be called 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
- If for any reason the child stops breathing, an ambulance should be called immediately

A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. School staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate