



FARNWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

Recommended by	A. Redman
Approved by	Full Governing Body
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Farnworth Church of England Primary School believes that all children, regardless of ability and behaviour are valued equally. Groups of pupils (eg. SEND pupils, children in care, EAL pupils etc) are not viewed as separate but are part of the whole school approach. Different children's needs are recognised and met through varied and flexible provision and the use of different styles of teaching & learning throughout the curriculum. This policy therefore applies to all our children, regardless of their gender, faith, race, culture, family circumstances or sexuality.

Our Ethos

'At Farnworth, we all grow together and we all have a voice. As a faith community, we are inspired by God to be our best - to be good people who see and celebrate the goodness in others too. Our gifts and talents are nurtured and we are valued and cared for in a community filled with love and the hope that as followers of Jesus, we can bring his light to the world. Here we learn, laugh and love as our lives are shaped by our values, our faith and our experiences together - ready for the journey ahead.'

Farnworth Church of England Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of all children and expects all staff to share in this commitment.

References and Legislation:

- Health and Safety at Work Act 1972
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001
- Sec 100 Children’s & Families Act 2014
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and associated regulations
- Medicines Act 1968
- Education (School Premises) Regulations 2012
- Education Act 1996 & 2002
- Children Act 1989
- Equality Act 2010
- The Education (Independent Schools Standards)(England) Regulations 2003
- National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding – Premises
- Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings
- Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools
- 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014
- B226 Aug 18 2.0 (PrescQIPP)

This policy is part of a whole school strategy to ensure that all members of our school community are kept safe and that their welfare is a high priority. It should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Policies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allegations Against Adults Policy• Equality• eSafety• Supporting Pupils at School with Medical conditions• Good Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy• Intimate Care Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safeguarding and Child Protection• Safer Recruitment Policy• Staff Behaviour / Code of Conduct• Use of Physical Intervention / Restraint Policy• Whistleblowing Policy

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Section 1: Background and roles and responsibilities

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Asthma is the most common chronic condition, affecting one in eleven children. On average, there are two children with asthma in every classroom in the UK. Children should have their own asthma reliever at school to treat symptoms and for use in the event of an asthma attack. The inhaler should be easily accessible to the children at all times.
- 1.2 Pupils at school with medical conditions, including asthma, should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
- 1.3 Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on governing bodies of maintained schools, proprietors of academies and management committees of PRUs to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions, which includes asthma.
- 1.4 This School Asthma policy is a stand-alone policy, however it complements the [‘Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions Policy’](#)

2.0 Scope

- 2.1 This Policy is designed to ensure that:
 - The school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school.
 - Pupils at school with asthma, will be properly supported to ensure they:-
 - have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.
 - can play a full and active role in school life, remain healthy and achieve their academic potential;
 - Staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma awareness.
 - Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

3.0 Roles and Responsibilities

3.1 Governing Bodies

3.1.1 It is the responsibility of Governing Bodies to ensure that arrangements are in place to support pupils with asthma. In doing so, they should ensure that such children can access and enjoy the same opportunities at school as any other child. In order to do so they should ensure that:-

- Adequate resources are made available for the implementation of the Policy;
- They take into account that asthma can affect quality of life and may be life-threatening;
- The focus is on the needs of each individual child and how their asthma impacts on their school life;
- In making their arrangements they give parents and pupils confidence in the school's ability to provide effective support for managing asthma in school;
- The school demonstrates an understanding of how asthma impacts on a child's ability to learn, as well as increase their confidence and promote self-care;
- That staff are properly trained to provide the support that pupils need; and
- That written records are kept of all asthma relievers administered to pupils.

3.2 Head teachers

3.2.1 Head teachers are responsible for implementing this policy.

3.2.2 Furthermore Head teachers will need to ensure that there is effective coordination and communication with relevant partners, professionals, parents and the pupils.

3.2.3 Through the 'named person' for supporting pupils at school with medical conditions Head teachers should ensure that:

- The school has an asthma policy, which is made available to staff and parents/carers;

- Ensure that the Head teacher signs the agreement for the school to administer the asthma reliever (see appendix 'B'); this could be the deputy or a named member of staff if the head teacher is not available.
- All staff should receive 'Asthma Awareness' training to support children with asthma. This training includes induction arrangements for new staff and must be refreshed every 12 months;
- Liaise between interested parties – school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, governors, the school health service and pupils;
- All relevant staff are made aware of the child's asthma including any requirement for the child to participate in outside the classroom activities where appropriate;
- Supply teachers are briefed;
- Risk assessments have been carried out for school visits, holidays, and other school activities outside of the normal timetable;
- Procedures are in place to cover any transitional arrangements between schools for any medical issues relating to the child's asthma;
- For children starting at the school, necessary arrangements are in place in time for the start of the relevant school term so that they start at the same time as their peers;
- Procedures are in place for the management of accepting, storing and administering asthma reliever ;
- Arrangements are made for the management of salbutamol inhalers and spacers if purchased by the school for use in an emergency;
- Communicate to all staff what to do in an emergency and what constitutes an emergency in accordance with Asthma Management Chart (see appendix 'H');
- Complete and maintain the Asthma Register (see appendix 'G'); and
- Ensure that staff are trained annually in Asthma Awareness.

3.2.3 Administration of Asthma Reliever

Children with asthma are likely need to take their asthma reliever during the school day at some point during their time in a school or setting. Head teachers are also responsible for the management of accepting, storing and administering any asthma reliever, which can be completed by ensuring that,

- a) Consent is obtained to administer asthma reliever from parents (see appendix 'A') *Please note that lack of a completed parental consent form should not preclude the administration of an asthma reliever if prescribed for a child/young person;*
- b) As agreed with parents, any administration of asthma relievers must be recorded (see appendix 'C');
- c) Asthma relievers should always be stored appropriately, but must be easily accessible to the child in case of an emergency;
- d) As part of the signed agreement with parents, taking action to ensure that asthma reliever is administered;
- e) Ensuring that all parents and all staff are aware of the policy and procedures for dealing with medical needs;
- f) Ensuring that the appropriate systems for information sharing are followed;
- g) Schools should only accept asthma relievers from parents that are in date, labelled and have been prescribed by a doctor or asthma nurse prescriber;
- h) Asthma relievers should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist. It must include the prescriber's instructions for administration, child's name and dosage; and
- i) Asthma relievers should be easily accessible in an emergency.

3.3 School staff

- 3.3.1 School staff should receive sufficient and suitable training before they take on responsibility to support children with medical conditions. Every member of school staff should know what to do and respond accordingly when they become aware that a pupil with a medical condition needs help.
- 3.3.2 School staff may be asked to provide support to pupils with asthma, including the administering of asthma relievers, although they cannot be required to do so. Although administering medicines including asthma relievers is not part of teachers' professional duties, they should take into account the needs of pupils with asthma and the duty of care they have towards the pupils that they teach.
- 3.3.3 All school staff have a responsibility to:
 - Understand the school asthma policy;

- Know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma;
- Know what to do in an asthma attack (see appendix 'H');
- Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their asthma reliever
- Inform parents/carers if their child is using their asthma reliever more than they usually would;
- Ensure pupils have their asthma reliever with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom;
- Ensure pupils who have been unwell catch up on missed school work;
- Be aware that a pupil may be tired because of night-time symptoms;
- Keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying;
- Liaise with parents/carers, the school nurse and special educational needs; and
- Contact Coordinators or Learning Support & Special Educational Needs Department if a child is falling behind with their work because of their asthma.

3.4 PE teachers

3.4.1 PE teachers have a responsibility to:

- Understand asthma and the impact it can have on pupils. Pupils with asthma should not be forced to take part in activity if they feel unwell. They should also not be excluded from activities that they wish to take part in if their asthma is well controlled;
- Ensure pupils have their asthma reliever with them during activity or exercise and are allowed to take it when needed;
- If a pupil has asthma symptoms while exercising, allow them to stop, take their asthma reliever;
- Remind pupils with asthma whose symptoms are triggered by exercise to use their asthma reliever 10 minutes pre-exercise; and
- Ensure pupils with asthma always warm up and down thoroughly.

3.5 School nurses

3.5.1 Every school has access to school nursing services. School nurses can help to provide specialist support when requested.

3.6 Pupils

3.6.1 Pupils have a responsibility to:

- Treat all pupils equally;
- Let any pupil having an asthma attack take their asthma reliever (usually blue) and ensure a member of staff is called;
- Tell their parents/carers, teacher or PE teacher when they are not feeling well;
- Treat asthma relievers with respect;
- Know how to gain access to their asthma reliever in an emergency; and
- Know how to take their own asthma reliever.

3.6.2 Asthma relievers for pupils with asthma need to be readily available. They should always be available during physical education classes and outdoor learning.

3.7 Parents/carers

3.7.1 Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Tell the school if their child has asthma;
- Inform the school about the asthma reliever their child may require during school hours;
- Inform the school of any asthma reliever the child may require while taking part in school including any trips and other out-of-school activities such as school team sports;
- Tell the school about any changes to their child's asthma treatment including what they take and how much;
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's asthma (for example, if their symptoms are getting worse or they are sleeping badly due to their asthma);
- Ensure their child's asthma reliever/packaging (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their name. Asthma relievers should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist or in a container as dispensed and labelled again by a pharmacist. It must include the prescriber's instructions for administration, child's name and dosage and storage. Spacers should be labelled with the child's name;
- Ensure that their child's asthma reliever is within its expiry date;

- Ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed; and
- Ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor or asthma nurse.

Section 2: Asthma Management

4.0 Storing Asthma Relievers

- 4.1 Children should know where their own asthma relievers are stored and be able to access them.
- 4.2 Staff should store and assist if necessary administration of asthma relievers that have been prescribed for an individual child or a salbutamol inhaler that has been purchased by the school for use in an emergency.
- 4.3 The inhaler and spacers for salbutamol inhalers must be kept in a safe and suitable location in the school. The inhalers and spacers are stored in the class emergency grab bags to which all staff have access at all times. The inhaler and spacer are not locked away.

5.0 Record keeping

- 5.1 When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. The school can use this information to complete an 'Asthma Register' (see appendix 'G'). A letter is sent to every child annually on the register to check that there have been no changes to the child's medical needs.
- 5.2 The school shall have a request from the parent for the school to administer asthma relievers to their child (see appendix 'A'). The administration of asthma reliever should only be conducted in accordance with parental agreement.
- 5.3 Where pupils self-administer or where a member of staff administers, a record should be made following each administration of asthma relief on Child Asthma Administration Record (see the Appendix 'C').
- 5.4 Receipt of asthma relievers must be logged and an entry made when returned to parents (see Appendix 'C')

6.0 Disposal of Asthma Relievers

- 6.1 Staff should not dispose of asthma relievers that have been prescribed for a pupil. Parents are responsible for ensuring that date-expired or unused asthma relievers are returned to a pharmacy for safe disposal. They should also collect asthma relievers held at the end of each academic year. If parents do not

collect all asthma relievers, they should be taken to a local pharmacy for safe disposal. A written record should be kept and parents informed.

- 6.2 If the school needs to dispose of a salbutamol inhaler that it has purchased for emergency use, then this should be taken by the school to the pharmacy for safe disposal.

7.0 Exercise and activity – PE and games

- 7.1 Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers should know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

- 7.2 Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their asthma reliever 10 minutes pre-exercise, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with PE staff that each pupil's asthma reliever will be labelled and kept in an emergency grab bag at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their asthma reliever during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

- 7.3 Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. When pupils self-administer they should be encouraged to tell a member of staff and then the administration can be recorded.

8.0 Day trips, school visits and after school clubs

- 8.1 There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in day trips and school visits. 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 pupils with asthma as much as possible in day trips, school visits and after school clubs.

- 8.2 PE teachers, 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. Each educational visit will require a risk assessment to cover the risks associated with a child going on the trip, which will require sufficient notice and planning to ensure any risks can be mitigated. No individual child or young person's details are to be put onto Evolve. The Asthma Management Chart (see appendix 'H') should be taken on school trips.

- 8.3 During the trip or club, each pupil's asthma reliever will be labelled and kept in an emergency grab bag. There should be sufficient members of staff accompanying children or young people with asthma for day trips, school visits

or after school clubs; they should have completed the asthma awareness training within the last 12 months.

9.0 School environment

9.1 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 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. For any concerns regarding pupils with asthma the Asthma Management Chart should be followed.

10.0 Making the school asthma-friendly

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

11.0 When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

11.1 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 parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs.

11.2 The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

12.0 Asthma attacks

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

12.2 In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the Asthma Management Chart attached in Appendix H. This procedure be visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom.

13.0 Keeping Salbutamol Inhalers (Asthma Attack) for use in Emergencies

13.1 From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 will allow schools to keep salbutamol inhalers for use in emergencies.

13.2 The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given (Appendix E), who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an reliever inhaler, or who don't have a diagnosis of asthma but have been prescribed an asthma reliever inhaler. The emergency inhaler can be used if

the pupil's prescribed asthma reliever is not available (for example, because it is broken, or empty).

- 13.3 Salbutamol is a relatively safe medicine, particularly if inhaled, but all medicines can have some adverse effects. Those of inhaled salbutamol are well known, tend to be mild and temporary and are not likely to cause serious harm. The child may feel a bit shaky or may tremble, or they may say that they feel their heart is beating faster.
- 13.4 The main risk of allowing schools to hold a salbutamol inhaler for emergency use is that it may be administered inappropriately to a breathless child who does not have asthma. It is essential therefore that schools ensure that the inhaler is only used by children who have asthma or who have been prescribed an asthma reliever and for whom written parental consent has been given.
- 13.5 Keeping an inhaler for emergency use will have many benefits. For identifying an asthma attack and emergency procedures it could prevent an unnecessary and traumatic trip to hospital for a child, and potentially save their life. Parents are likely to have greater peace of mind about sending their child to school. However, this is a discretionary power enabling schools to do this if they wish.
- 13.6 In order to use schools should:-
 - a) Have a register of children in the school that have been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed an inhaler/ reliever, a copy of which should kept with the emergency inhaler (see appendix 'G')
 - b) Have written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler (see appendix 'E')
 - c) Ensure that the emergency inhaler is only used by children with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler with written parental consent for its use
 - d) Ensure that appropriate support and training for staff is provided in the use of the emergency inhaler in line with the school's wider policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
 - e) Maintain records of use of the emergency inhaler and informing parents or carers that their child has used the emergency inhaler and follow Asthma Management Chart (see appendix H)
 - f) Have at least two volunteers responsible for ensuring the protocol is followed
- 13.7 Schools can buy inhalers and spacers (these are enclosed plastic vessels which make it easier to deliver asthma relievers to the lungs) from a pharmaceutical supplier, provided the general advice relating to these transactions are observed. A draft letter for schools to use has been prepared (see appendix 'I'). Schools can buy inhalers in small quantities provided it is done on an occasional basis and is not for profit. The supplier will need a

request signed by the principal or head teacher (ideally on appropriately headed paper) stating:

- a) The name of the school for which the product is required;
- b) The purpose for which that product is required, and
- c) The total quantity required.

13.8 Schools may wish to discuss with their community pharmacist the different plastic spacers available and what is most appropriate for the age-group in the school. Community pharmacists can also provide advice on use of the inhaler. Schools should be aware that pharmacies cannot provide inhalers and spacers free of charge and will charge for them.

13.9 With regard to care of the inhaler, the two named volunteers amongst school staff should have responsibility for ensuring that:

- a) On a monthly basis the inhaler and spacers are present and in working order, and the inhaler has sufficient number of doses available;
- b) That replacement inhalers are obtained when expiry dates approach;
- c) During an incident, if using the school's emergency spacer, then this must only be used for that child and can be given to that child for further use. It must not be used again for another child; and
- d) The plastic inhaler housing (which holds the canister) has been washed, air dried and returned to storage following use, or that replacements are available if necessary.

14.0 Emergency Procedures

14.1 All staff should be aware of the likelihood of an emergency arising and what action to take if one occurs. Back up cover should be arranged for when the member of staff responsible is absent or unavailable, this includes out of class activities. At different times of the day other staff may be responsible for children, such as lunchtime supervisors. It is important that they are also provided with training and advice. Other children should know what to do in the event of an emergency, such as, telling a member of staff.

14.2 Where the Head teacher/member of staff considers that hospital treatment is required in accordance with the Asthma Management Chart (see appendix 'H') the school should contact the emergency services for advice and follow it. Parents must be contacted and informed of the situation.

14.3 If a child needs to be taken to hospital, staff should stay with the child until the parent arrives, or accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance. Schools need to ensure they understand the local emergency services cover

arrangements and that the correct information is provided for navigation systems.

15.0 Insurance

Schools buying into Halton Borough Council's insurance scheme:

15.1 Where a member of staff acting in the course of employment supports pupils with asthma at schools, they will be indemnified by the Council's liability insurance for any claim for negligence relating to injury or loss through their actions, providing that the following criteria have been met.

- ✓ They have received full appropriate training to carry out any medical interventions for that pupil
- ✓ They have received refresher training at the required intervals
- ✓ They have used the relevant protective equipment for that purpose
- ✓ There is written parental instruction and consent
- ✓ It is made clear to non-trained staff that they should not administer asthma reliever

15.2 Schools using other insurance insurers:

- ✓ Schools not buying into HBC's insurance scheme should check with their own insurers that the same cover applies.
- ✓ Staff should have regard to any local guidance issued by appropriate health service staff.

16.0 Complaints

Should parents or pupils be dissatisfied with the support provided they should discuss their concerns directly with the school. If for whatever reason this does not resolve the issue, they may make a formal complaint via the school's complaints procedure. Making a formal complaint to the Department for Education should only occur if it comes within scope of section 496/497 of the Education Act 1996 and after other attempts at resolution have been exhausted.

Section 2: Appendices

Appendix A

Parental agreement for school to administer asthma relievers

Please complete and sign this form.

Name of school/setting

Name of child

Date of birth

Group/class/form

Medical condition or illness

Daily care requirements (e.g. before sport/lunchtime)

Describe what constitutes an emergency for the child, and action taken if this occurs

Medicine

Note: Asthma Relievers must be the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy

Name/type of Asthma Reliever
(as described on the container)

Date dispensed

Expiry date

Agreed review date to be initiated by

Dosage and method

When to be given

Any other instructions

Timing

Special precautions:

/ /

/ /
/ /
[name of member of staff]

Are there any side effects that the school/setting needs to know about?

--

Can they self-administer inhaler?

--

Procedures to take in an emergency (See Appendix H)

--

Contact Details

Name

--

Daytime telephone no.

--

Mobile telephone no.

--

Relationship to child

--

Address

--

Who is the person to be contacted in an emergency (state if different for offsite activities)

--

Emergency telephone contact no.

--

Name and phone no. Of GP

--

I understand that I must deliver the asthma reliever personally to

[agreed member of staff]

I accept that this is a service that the school/setting is not obliged to undertake.

The above information is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate at the time of writing and I give consent to the school/setting staff (or my son/daughter) administering asthma relievers in accordance with the school/setting policy. I understand that I must notify the school/setting in writing of any change in dosage or frequency of asthma reliever or if asthma reliever is stopped.

Date _____

Signature(s) _____

Head teacher Agreement to Administer Asthma Reliever

Name of school/setting

It is agreed that [name of child] will receive [quantity and name of medicine] when required/ as prescribed.

[Name of child] will be given/supervised whilst he/she takes their asthma reliever by [name of member of staff].

This arrangement will continue until [either end date of course of medicine or until instructed by parents].

Date _____

Signed _____

(The Head teacher/Head of setting/named member of staff)

Appendix C

Record of Asthma Reliever Administered to an Individual Child

Name of school	
Name of child	
Date asthma reliever provided by parent	/ /
Group/class/form	
Location of storage	
Quantity received	
Name and strength of asthma reliever	
Expiry date	/ /
Quantity returned	
Dose and frequency of asthma reliever	

Staff signature _____

Signature of parent _____

Date	/ /	/ /	/ /
Time given			
Dose given			
Action Taken			

Name of member of staff

--	--	--

Staff initials

--	--	--

Date

/ /	/ /	/ /
-----	-----	-----

Time given

--	--	--

Dose given

--	--	--

Action Taken

--	--	--

Name of member of staff

--	--	--

Staff initials

--	--	--

Date

/ /	/ /	/ /
-----	-----	-----

Time given

--	--	--

Dose given

--	--	--

Action Taken

--	--	--

Name of member of staff

--	--	--

Staff initials

--	--	--

Staff training record – Asthma Awareness

Name of school/setting	
Name of Attendees	See attached list provided by the school
Type of training received	
Date of training completed	/ /
Training provided by	
Profession and title	

I confirm that the attached list of attendees have received the training detailed above. I recommend that the training is annually updated.

Trainer's signature _____

Date _____

I confirm that I have received the training detailed above.

Staff signature _____

Date _____

Suggested review date _____

CONSENT FORM:

USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER

[Insert school name]

Child showing symptoms of asthma / having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma / has been prescribed an asthma reliever [delete as appropriate].
2. My child has a working, in-date asthma reliever, clearly labelled with their name, which they will bring with them to school every day.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their asthma reliever 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).....

Child's name:
.....
.....

Class:
.....
.....

Parent's address and contact details:
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

SPECIMEN LETTER TO INFORM PARENTS OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE

Child's name:

Class:

Date:

Dear.....,

[Delete as appropriate]

This letter is to formally notify you that.....has had problems with his / her breathing today. This happened when.....

A member of staff helped them to use their asthma inhaler.

They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.

Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs. .

[Delete as appropriate]

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

ASTHMA MANAGEMENT IN SCHOOL

If a child or young person has:

- Increased cough
- Increased wheeze
- Increased breathlessness
- Or they are needing to take their reliever (blue) inhaler more than four hourly

Action to take

1. Give 2 puffs of reliever (blue inhaler)
2. Wait 5 minutes. If no improvement Repeat
3. Wait for a further 5 minutes.
4. If no improvement contact parent/carer and move to **AMBER**

If a child or young person has symptoms in the green section but has had no improvement with treatment recommended.

Action to take:

1. Give an additional 5 puffs of reliever (blue) inhaler via spacer device (Volumatic®)
2. Go to a GP/WALK IN CENTRE
3. If no improvement move to **RED**

Emergency

CALL 999

When the following symptoms are present:

- Difficulty speaking
- Breathing faster than usual, using their tummy muscles or tracheal tug (dipping in at the neck)
- Tired, pale or blue around the lips

ACTION

- Give 1 puff of reliever (blue) inhaler every 30 seconds (up to 10 puffs) using the spacer device (Volumatic®)
- If ambulance has not arrived by this point continue to give 1 puff every 30 seconds until help arrives.



Salbutamol inhalers in schools

From 1st October 2014, legislation on prescription medicines changed to allow schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies.

This change applies to all primary and secondary schools in the UK. Schools are not required to hold an inhaler – this is a discretionary power enabling schools to do this if they wish. Schools that choose to keep emergency inhalers and spacers should establish a protocol for their use, which should include infection control and cleaning to avoid cross infection. Schools should consider including a cross-reference to this protocol in their policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication and where this is recorded in the child's individual healthcare plan. The inhaler can also be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken, empty or out-of-date).

Templates for parental consent forms and notification to parents of emergency salbutamol use, can be found at Annex A and B, respectively, of the Department of Health Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools, March 2015.¹¹

Salbutamol is still classified as a prescription only medicine; legislation changes only affects the way the medicine can be obtained and not the class of medicine.

A written order signed and dated by the principal or head teacher at the school must be provided to the community pharmacy to enable a supply to be made to the school. Ideally appropriately headed paper should be used however this is not a legislative requirement.

In line with legislation requirements the order must state;

- (i) the name of the school for which the medicinal product is required,
- (ii) the purpose for which that product is required, and
- (iii) the total quantity required.

The number of inhalers that can be obtained by individual schools is not specified in legislation. As part of the consultation process it was acknowledged that the number held for emergency use would be dependent on a variety of factors including; the school size and the number of sites it is comprised of, the number of children known to have asthma, and past experiences of children who had not been able to access their inhaler. It was however agreed, generally that only a small number of inhalers were likely to be needed annually.

To avoid possible risk of cross-infection, the spacer device should not be reused. It can be given to the child to take home for future personal use. The inhaler itself however can usually be reused, provided it is cleaned after use. However, if there is any risk of contamination with blood (for example if the inhaler has been used without a spacer), it should also not be re-used but disposed of.

Schools can be advised to contact a local community pharmacy for advice on inhaler technique and selection of the most appropriate spacer device.

**SIGNED ORDER FOR SCHOOLS TO USE TO ORDER EMERGENCY
SALBUTAMOL INHALERS**

[School Headed Paper Should Ideally be used]

[School Address]

[Contact Details]

I wish to order the following in line with The Human Medicines (Amendment No. 2) Regulations 2014):

[INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL]

PURPOSE OF THE SIGNED ORDER

The purpose of this signed order is to enable the school to hold stocks of salbutamol inhalers which can be supplied in an emergency by persons trained to administer them to pupils who are known to require such asthma reliever and who attend this school.

An emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever asthma reliever .

Please supply:

Salbutamol Inhaler CFC Free 100mcg MDI = [INSERT NUMBER]

**[Insert details of type and number of spacers required]*

SIGNATURE _____

PRINT NAME _____

****DESIGNATION** _____

DATE _____

** The spacer must be compatible with the brand of salbutamol inhaler supplied. Schools should discuss with their community pharmacist the different plastic spacers available and what is most appropriate for the age-group in the school.*

***The order must be signed by the principal or head teacher at the school concerned*

