



# COPTHORNE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Asthma Policy

Date of issue	Review date	Date ratified by Governing Body
March 2021	March 2024	March 2021
Print name	Signature	Date
<b>Head of School</b>	Miss S Ngenda	
<b>On behalf of Governing Body</b>	Mr P Gerrard	

Copthorne Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. Copthorne Primary School encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy and guidance that is understood by all school staff and pupils. All the first aiders in school are trained on how to deal with asthma attacks, have experience in doing this and receive regularly updated training as part of their re-certification training.

### Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. **Asthma inhalers should always be readily available to children, and not locked away.** All inhalers are kept in the pupils classrooms in a generic, clearly identifiable box, together with a recording book for writing down when a child uses their inhaler.
- Children should know where their medicines are at all times and be able to access them immediately. This is true both in school and when away from the premises, for example on school trips.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled inhaler when requested (ie when the aerosol is running low). All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- Pupils with asthma are expected to self-administer their inhalers under the supervision of an adult, although children in EYFS will be assisted in administering their inhalers. However, the school will require the parents/carers to complete an Administration of Medicine consent form before this can happen.

From 1 October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No .2) Regulations 2014 will allow schools to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. The following guidance applies:

- The emergency salbutamol inhaler is only for children for whom written parental consent for use of an emergency inhaler has been given.
- The child's name must be on the asthma register kept in school (A copy of the register to be kept with emergency kits).
- The inhaler can only be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (eg. it is broken/lost/empty has been taken home and not returned).
- A record of when the emergency inhaler has been used has to be recorded on the Record of Medicine administered to all children (Appendix 4 of Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy), as well as a record kept in their personal inhaler record book. Parents will also be informed when their child has had to use an emergency inhaler.
- A child may be prescribed an inhaler for their asthma which contains an alternative reliever medication to Salbutamol. The Salbutamol inhaler should still be used by these children if their own inhaler is not accessible. It will still help to relieve their asthma and could save their life.

- Ensuring emergency inhaler kits are kept up to date and stocked is the responsibility of the Lead 1<sup>st</sup> Aider.
- The supply, storage, care and disposal of emergency inhaler kits will comply with the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy.

### **How to respond to an asthma attack**

- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Help the child to take two separate puffs of his/her inhaler or the emergency salbutamol inhaler via the spacer
- If there's no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs every two minutes up to a maximum of 10 puffs, or until symptoms improve
- Stay calm and reassure the child
- Call an ambulance if the child doesn't feel better or you're worried at any time before reaching 10 puffs

### **You should also call an ambulance immediately if a child:**

- Appears exhausted
- Has a blue/white tinge around his/her lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed

### **Record Keeping**

- At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their data collection form.
- Any parent, whose child suffers from asthma and uses an inhaler, will be asked to complete an Administration of Medicine consent form and return it to school. The parents will also be asked if they consent to administration of an emergency inhaler if necessary. This is clearly marked on the Administration of Medication form.
- A record book will be kept in each inhaler storage box to record names, frequency and amount of dosages administered. If a child's use of their inhaler is considered, by school, to be a concern we will inform parents in order that they may discuss this with their GP. A copy of administration dosages can be photocopied for this purpose.

### **Exercise and activity – PE and games**

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All staff are aware of the children in their class who suffer from asthma.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

## **After-school activities & Saturday Club**

- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in after-school and Saturday Club activities. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a club they will be encouraged to do so. Any child attending extra curricular clubs that suffers from asthma, will be asked to bring their inhalers with them whilst they attend.

## **School Environment**

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that may be potential triggers for pupils with asthma.