

Hollybrook Junior School

Asthma Protocol

In developing this asthma protocol the school acknowledges the advice and guidance of the National Asthma Campaign. The school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school welcomes all pupils with asthma and through the protocol pupils will be able to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life.

All relevant staff will be given training on asthma management and will be expected to update this regularly.

- All pupils with asthma will have an individual care plan, and this should be provided to the school from the parents
- The school office will store spare inhalers for individual children. These are kept in a fully labelled bag in the school office with a pupil's health care plan (if necessary).
- Relevant staff will receive regular training and updates to ensure they have a clear understanding of asthma and what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Pupils will be encouraged to understand the condition so that they can support each other. This will be done through the PSHE lessons.
- Staff will be informed annually of those children who suffer with asthma. The individual care plans (where necessary) are available for staff to take off site with a pupil on school trips and visits.
- A list of asthma sufferers is available from the school office.
- The school will work in partnership to ensure effective communication of this protocol.

ASTHMA

Asthma is a condition that affects the airways. When a person with asthma comes into contact with something that irritates their airway the muscles around the walls of the airway tighten so that the airway becomes narrow and the lining inflamed and starts to swell. Sometimes sticky mucous or phlegm builds up which can further narrow the airways. This makes it very difficult to breathe and leads to symptoms of asthma.

- Parents/guardians should be informed as soon as possible after a serious attack
- Minor attacks should not interrupt the child's involvement in the school day and they should return to activities when they are fully recovered.
- School staff should contact the School first aider for advice, help and support and for

further information if they are concerned about a pupil.

Recognising an asthma attack

- The airways in the lungs become restricted
- The child will have difficulty speaking
- The child may wheeze, and have difficulty breathing out
- The child may become quickly distressed, anxious and exhausted. They may appear blue around the lips and mouth.

What to do if a child has an asthma attack

- Ensure that the reliever (blue) inhaler is taken if prescribed
- Send for a school first aider immediately
- Stay calm and reassure the child
- Ensure the child sits upright and slightly forward
- Loosen any tight clothing
- Encourage slow deep breaths

Call 999 and request an ambulance urgently if:

- The reliever (blue inhaler) has had no effect after 5 - 10 minutes
- The child is unable to talk or increasingly distressed
- The child is disorientated or collapses.
- The child looks blue around the mouth and lips
- If you have any doubts about the child's condition