

## Asthma Policy



*'We can and we will'*

### **GLEBE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

#### **Asthma Policy**

#### **Mission Statement:**

At Glebe Primary School we believe in an ethos that values the whole child. We strive to enable all children to achieve their full potential academically, socially and emotionally.

#### **Aims**

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure that we provide all our children with the best quality of care we can; that they are safe, healthy, happy and therefore able to learn to the best of their ability.
- To ensure the safe and legal use of medication in the school environment;
- To ensure that pupils, staff and parents understand how our school will support pupils with medical conditions;
- To ensure that pupils with medical conditions are properly supported to allow them to access the same education as other pupils, including school trips and sporting activities.

#### **Introduction**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

Glebe Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with 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, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

#### **Legislation**

Local authorities, schools and governing bodies are all responsible for the health and safety of pupils in their care.

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This policy meets the requirements under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which places a duty on governing boards to make arrangements for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.

It is also based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance: Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/803956/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions.pdf)

This also meets the requirements of:

- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA),
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (SENDA) and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2005 and Equality Act (2010). These acts make it unlawful for service providers, including schools, to discriminate against disabled people.

Other relevant legislation includes:

- The Education Act 1996,
- The Care Standards Act 2000,
- The Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974,
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Medicines Act 1968.

### Medicines

As from October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (N0.2) Regulations 2014 allowed schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies.

To conform with the above, Glebe Primary School will be operating an Opt Out policy for permission to use the emergency inhaler when required.

Parents wishing to opt out, must contact the school in writing, and ensure that their child has suitable medication to cover all eventualities.

Children who are known to suffer from Asthma are requested to have ONE reliever inhaler in school. All children are also requested to have a spacer in school if their inhaler works with one and an up to date treatment card.

Preventers, (brown inhalers) are not permitted under any circumstances unless we are advised by the Asthma Nurses that there has been a change in the recognised way that Asthma is treated in schools.

All children are encouraged and trained in using their inhalers themselves. However, where there are problems, staff have been trained to help administer where needed. Although school staff are under no legal requirement to administer any medication in school, staff at Glebe who have undergone training are happy to assist if a child needs help.

The inhaler and spacer are kept in the classroom in a draw string bag for the sole use of asthma and anaphylaxis medication. Each bag has a supply of pink slips to log every time

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a child uses their inhaler, which is sent to the Welfare Assistant to log, and literature to inform of the various different types of inhalers and how to use them. All children who are on the Asthma register know where to find their particular inhaler and have been trained in how to use it. In addition to the pink slips in the Asthma bag, children have also been issued with a record book in which they log when and how they have used their inhaler. This is kept in their school book bag and sent home each day. If a child has used their inhaler, we request that the parent sign the book as acknowledgement. This will ensure that the parent has a record of usage in school.

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that Asthma bags are taken wherever the class goes e.g. the hall for P.E. and out on school trips to enable children have immediate access should they require an inhaler.

The Staff are also aware that only inhalers, spacers, epi-pens and antihistamine are allowed in these bags and know to record any usage as and when it occurs. If there is excessive use of an inhaler, the class teacher will inform the Welfare Assistant. The Welfare Assistant in turn will advise the child's parents accordingly. If any member of staff thinks that an inhaler is being used too often, or is any doubt about the usage of an inhaler, they will ensure that the Welfare Assistant is notified and she will contact the parent to advise them. (It could be that the preventer medication is not working as it should be).

All Asthma bags are checked ½ termly. Letters or texts reminding parents that an inhaler is about to expire are sent out approximately 4 weeks prior to the inhaler going out of date.

Out of date inhalers are returned home with a subsequent request for a new one if one hasn't been sent in by this time. **Ultimately it is the parents' responsibility to ensure that all reliever inhalers are in date and are on school premises.**

All inhalers in class have the child's name clearly adhered to them (the actual inhaler and the box), so there is no chance of it being used by the wrong child.

Each child's parent is asked to complete an Asthma card, which is kept in the Medical Room. (Copies of which are also in the record books). A register is kept of all children with inhalers. An annual audit is taken each September and letters are sent out to all parents of children who are on the Asthma Register to remind them of current inhalers held in school. These letters advise whether action is required or not.

Staff training on the understanding of Asthma and how to help a child use an inhaler is undertaken annually and although voluntary, all staff are encouraged to attend. It is a requirement that all First Aiders attend such training.

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

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

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers and TAs will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise, to take their inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. As stated before, the class teacher will ensure that the child's medicine bag is brought to the hall or outside

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depending on where the activity is taking place. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

### Offsite Visits

**Children with Asthma going off school premises for any reason must be in a group lead by a member of staff.** The only exception to this rule is if the child's own parent is helping.

The school has four Emergency Asthma Inhaler Kits around school. They are located as follows:

- Welfare Room,
- School Hall,
- Upstairs Landing by ICT suite,
- In the Breakfast/Afterschool hut.

These are checked and recorded quarterly.

Audits are undertaken by the School Nurse attached to Glebe, and support given where required.

We endeavour to have a meeting with all children diagnosed with Asthma once a term to enable children to meet each other and ask questions about what Asthma means to them.

### Further information can be found at:

**Asthma UK**

**18 Mansell Street London**

**E1 8AA Phone**

**020 7786 4900**

**Fax 020 7256 6075**

**[info@asthma.org.uk](mailto:info@asthma.org.uk)**

**[www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)**

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**To be reviewed: March 2024**