

# Sandwood Primary School



## **Asthma Policy**





Sandwood Primary School & LCR



## *Asthma Policy*

This policy has been written with advice from Asthma UK and the school health service.

### *Rationale*

Sandwood Primary School and LCR:-

- recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings and other out-of-hours school activities
- recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take
- ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- ensures that all pupils understand asthma
- ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, school nurse, parents/carers, employers of school staff, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

### *Asthma Medicines*

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children P1/P2 are stored in the classroom in a clearly labelled box for the duration of the school day. It is the class teachers responsibility to take the box to any other areas that the class are working in during the day.

- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. These will be stored in the First Aid cabinet in the school office in case the pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils but will oversee the administration.

### *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 enrolment form.
- All parents/carers of children are issued a medical form at the start of the year to note medical conditions and medicine and the school keeps a record of this.

### *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 PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's medical register.
- 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 reliever inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with PE staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

### *Out-of-hours sport*

- There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. At Sandwood Primary we involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.
- 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. All staff are provided with training from the school nurse or members of staff, who have had asthma training.

## *Making the school asthma-friendly*

- The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma through a variety of activities e.g. school assemblies, focus days, interactive websites etc

## *Asthma attacks*

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- In the event of an asthma attack our school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. This procedure is visibly displayed on posters in the staffroom, office, janitors room and is included in the staff Forward Plan folder.