

ASTHMA

To be read in tandem with the Administration of Prescribed Medication Policy

A Introduction

1. Norfolk House School
 - (i) welcomes all children with asthma
 - (ii) recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children
 - (iii) encourages and helps children with asthma to participate fully in school life including art lessons, PE, Science, visits and outings
 - (iv) recognises the need for immediate access to inhalers
 - (v) does all it can to make sure that the school environment is favourable to asthmatics
 - (vi) ensures that all staff understand asthma
 - (vii) understands what to do in the event of a child having an asthma attack and will, if necessary, give emergency treatment and inform parents accordingly
 - (viii) works in partnership with children, parents and staff to ensure the successful implementation of this asthma policy
 - (ix) keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medication they take
2. Norfolk House School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
3. This school encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All of the teaching staff and non-teaching staff, as appropriate, receive asthma training from the local authority health team and this is updated at regular intervals. The school also has two fully trained named first aiders.
4. When a child joins the school the parents are asked to inform us if their child has asthma. It is also important that parents inform the school if their child subsequently develops asthma or of any change in their condition. All parents of children with asthma are asked to give us detailed information about their child's medication. Parents complete a Medication Permission Slip, which is kept with the pupil's medication and for the School records. If the child's medication changes, parents must inform the school. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that asthma medication is in date and replacement inhalers are provided upon expiry.
5. Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Reliever inhalers for all pupils are provided by parents and kept in the classrooms, clearly labelled and stored in individual medical bags. Reliever inhalers are taken with the children when they go on a school trip. All reliever inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. We have a register of all children who have an inhaler. School staff are not permitted to administer medication to children except as specifically directed by a suitably qualified medical professional. Children are encouraged to carry their own reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor and class teacher agree they are mature enough

6. All school staff will let children take their medication when they need to.
7. Taking part in PE is an essential part of school like and children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully. Teachers are aware of which children in their class have asthma and they will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. If a child needs to use their reliever inhaler during the lesson then will be able to do so.
8. The school does all that it can to ensure that the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a non-smoking policy and is aware of the possible effects of keeping pets in the classroom. As far as is possible the school does not use chemicals in Science or Art that are potential triggers for children with asthma.
9. If a child is missing a lot of school because of asthma, the class teacher will provide work for the child to do at home. If the child starts to fall behind in class the teacher will work with the family to discuss next steps. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.
10. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

B In the event of an Asthma attack

1. Deal with the child wherever it occurs. (A change of air can make the problem worse)
2. Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened and arms are resting on the back of a chair, then send for a first aider
4. If there is no improvement after 5 minutes give the child the reliever inhaler again. Call for one of the named First Aiders.
5. Call an ambulance and contact the parents if:-
 - (i) the reliever inhaler has had no effect after a further 5 to 10 minutes
 - (ii) the child is either distressed or unable to talk
 - (iii) the child is getting exhausted
 - (iv) there is any doubts at all about the child's condition.
6. Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better the child can return to school activities. Parents will be informed if their child has an asthma attack in school.

ANNEXE 1

In the Event of an Asthma Attack

Information for Staff

1. Deal with the child wherever it occurs. (A change of air can make the problem worse).
2. Ensure the child's reliever inhaler is taken immediately. If there is no inhaler or it is a first asthma attack, call for one of the named first aiders (Mr Morgans or Miss Huckerby).
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened and arms are resting on the back of a chair, then send for a first aider.
4. If there is no improvement after 5 minutes, give the child the reliever inhaler again. Call for one of the named first aiders.
5. Call an ambulance and contact the parents if:
 - (i) the reliever inhaler has had no effect after a further 5 to 10 minutes;
 - (ii) the child is either distressed or unable to talk;
 - (iii) the child is getting exhausted;
 - (iv) there is any doubt at all about the child's condition.

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