

Lowton West Primary School



Asthma Policy

Policy reviewed by N. Gould

Date policy reviewed: May 2024

Ratified by Governing Body:

Dr G. Merrett (Chair of Governors)
Mrs J. Westhead (Headteacher)

Review date: May 2025

Lowton West Primary School Asthma Policy

Aiming High Together



School Vision

To inspire, achieve and succeed, we will aim high and build dreams and futures together.

Mission Statement

Providing the highest quality education, care and support for the whole school community.

Our mission statement is based on RESPECT:

R = Recognising the needs of the individual child

E = Ensuring a unique and engaging curriculum

S = Supporting each other to learn and achieve

P = Passionate about providing the highest quality education

E = Encouraging creativity, self – expression and imagination

C = Creating confident, resilient, life – long learners

T = The voice of everybody is heard

All the above statements help us to understand how we can all make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

We will do this through our core values:

- Respect
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Confidence

We also, at Lowton West Primary School, strive to develop and uphold British Values.

The five British values that the Government has identified for schools to focus on are: -

- Democracy
- The Rule of Law
- Individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs
- Developing personal and social responsibility
- Respect for British Institutions

There are more details on how our school demonstrates and develops these British Values in our British Values Policy and on our website.

Background

This policy has been written by following advice from the Asthma UK website. This policy links to the 'First Aid in schools, early years and further education' guidance (updated February 2022), 'Supporting Pupils at school with medical conditions' (December 2015) and 'Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school' (March 2015).

This 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. Lowton West Primary 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, governors and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. Staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma either from the asthma nurse, through their first aid training or in-house training. Training is updated regularly.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma have their inhalers accessible to them in the classroom. During P.E. sessions inhalers are taken outside. Class teachers ensure that inhalers are taken on class trips and are accessible to the children at all times. Parents are also asked to provide a spare inhaler if possible – this is to be kept in school in case the other inhaler becomes lost or runs out. A spare inhaler must be provided on residential.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with an inhaler showing the prescription label. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and parents/carers are also asked to provide spacers.

Therefore, every child has an inhaler and spacer in school which has been prescribed by a doctor. The inhalers are kept in a central place in the classroom so that the children can access them at any time. Inhalers are taken out with the children for P.E. lessons. All staff are responsible for ensuring that children have their inhalers with them when they are out on school trips, or with a supervising adult (who is with that child during the trip). If a child has an asthma attack, staff follow the guidance from the asthma nurse training (which is displayed around school and in all classrooms).

In an emergency:

If a child has had 5 puffs and is still breathless, another 5 puffs can be given. If there is still no improvement staff should dial 999 immediately.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency). However, the staff at this school are happy to do this. All school staff will let pupils take their own inhalers independently when they need to but will also provide help/supervision administering the inhaler if needed.

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 on their contact details form.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an individual asthma healthcare plan to complete.

Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps an asthma register, which is available to all school staff.

The asthma register is displayed in the staffroom (on the asthma board) and class asthma registers are also available in classrooms, in class grab bags.

The completed individual asthma health care plans are then kept in files which are located in the Reprographics Room, and also kept in the class grab bags, so that they are easily accessible in the event of an emergency. Teachers and Teaching Assistants also keep a copy of the individual health care plans in a class first aid/ grab bags, which is also used for trips and visits.

The spacers will be cleaned termly by the class teaching assistant (with the parent's permission).

They should be washed with warm, soapy water and allowed to drip dry - not dried with a cloth.

Parents/carers are asked to update the Health care plans or if their child's details change.

Communication with parents:

Staff will send home a slip to inform parents that their child has had his/ her inhaler. A record will also be kept in school.

If a child has needed to take his/ her inhaler more than usual, or on more than a few occasions, staff will inform parents by telephone and via the slip.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler:

An emergency salbutamol inhaler is kept in school. Parents/ carers will be asked to complete a consent form giving their permission for the emergency salbutamol inhaler to be used by their child in the following circumstances:

- The child did not have their own asthma inhaler in school/ with them
- The child's own asthma inhaler was not working

Parents/ carers will be notified if the emergency inhaler is used by their child.

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 asthma register.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons and will have their inhalers with them at all times. When extra-curricular activities are taking place, the club leader should make themselves aware of any pupils with asthma and should ensure that the pupils have their inhalers with them. They should also ensure that the inhalers are returned to the classroom at the end of the extra-curricular session. A copy of this policy will be given to all staff and to extra-curricular club leaders.

Any staff who are taking children out to sporting events should ensure that any pupils with asthma have their inhalers with them. The pupil should be identified on the risk assessment.

School environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not currently keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. If animals are visiting the school (e.g. police dogs) parents will be informed and asked to inform school if their child has an allergy to animals or if contact with the animals could trigger their asthma. If the school decides to keep animals in the future, parents would be informed and measures taken to keep children with asthma safe. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma will be asked to leave the room and go and sit with a first aider if any particular fumes are thought to have triggered their asthma. Parents will be informed.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special education needs coordinator about the pupil's needs.

The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.