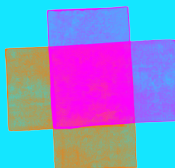


Supporting pupils and students

Developing a medical conditions policy

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All schools should have a medical conditions policy which states how the school will care for any children with medical conditions, the procedures for getting the right care and training in place, and who is responsible for making sure the policy is carried out.

The policy should recognise that health conditions can be life-threatening and that they can also affect how a child learns. Schools must regularly review and audit their policy to make sure the arrangements for children and young people with medical conditions are working. (Health Conditions in School Alliance, 2024).

Governing bodies should ensure that all schools develop a policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions that is reviewed regularly and is readily accessible to parents and school staff. In developing their policy, schools may wish to seek advice from any relevant healthcare professional (Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, 2015).

The statutory guidance below will help asthma leads/champions to develop a school medical conditions policy or asthma policy.



England

Supporting pupils at school with medical



Wales

Supporting learners with healthcare needs



Scotland

Supporting children and young people with healthcare needs in schools: guidance



Northern Ireland

Support for pupils with medication needs

Key points



Pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education.



Governing bodies must ensure that arrangements are in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions.



Governing bodies should ensure that school leaders consult health and social care professionals, pupils and parents to ensure that the needs of children with medical conditions are properly understood and effectively.



The following information is not intended as medical advice but lays out some simple processes that schools should consider putting in place to ensure that staff, parents and pupils understand current best practice in managing asthma.



Supporting pupils/students with asthma

Schools should encourage pupils with asthma to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear medical conditions/asthma policy that is understood by all staff. They should encourage good communication between home and school and awareness of roles and responsibilities. It is important to encourage older students be actively involved in managing their asthma at school and welcome their insights and opinions. Schools should endeavour to provide the best care and support possible for students by ensuring they have:

- an asthma lead/champion/team
- an up-to-date school medical conditions/asthma policy which is reviewed annually
- an up-to-date register of pupils/students with asthma or suspected asthma
- immediate access to the pupil/student's own reliever inhaler (it may be decided that older pupils/students carry their own)
- safe storage and management of any inhalers that are kept by the school
- accurate records that are updated in an accurate and timely manner
- a personalised asthma action plan for all pupils/students on the school asthma register or individualised healthcare plan for those with more complex asthma or multiple conditions
- training for all staff to increase understanding of how to support people with asthma in the school community
- raised awareness of asthma across the whole school community
- an environment that is safe for people with asthma
- an emergency inhaler kit(s) (optional).

Everyone in the school community has a part to play in making a safe, inclusive asthma fit school. This includes school governors, managers, asthma leads/champions, school staff, volunteers, parents/carers and pupils/students.

Asthma leads/champions

Named asthma leads/champions should ensure that:

- All aspects of the policy are understood, implemented and procedures are followed.
- The policy is reviewed annually and the school community are made aware of any changes.

- The asthma register is updated and shared securely with all staff including supply and visiting staff.
- Records relating to asthma and inhaler use are updated accurately and in a timely manner.
- All pupils/students have a personalised written asthma action plan/ individual healthcare plan in school to follow if they have symptoms.
- Consent status from the parent/carers recorded to use the school emergency reliever inhaler.
- Pupils/students with severe asthma or co-existing conditions are considered for an individual healthcare plan (IHP).
- Students who carry their own reliever inhaler are reminded to always have it with them. Parents/carers will be informed immediately if the student does not have their inhaler with them.
- If a pupil/student needs the school to store their reliever or spare reliever inhaler, it will be stored safely with ease of access in an unlocked cupboard. The student will know where it is kept. The inhaler will be brought to them if they have symptoms; they should not be sent to get it. Remember: **inhaler to child, not child to inhaler.**
- Ensure inhalers are stored in the original pharmacy box with the prescription details clearly visible.
- All reliever inhalers are easily and quickly accessible.
- No pupil/student will be denied access to their inhaler; they will be listened to and heard.
- No pupil/student will be given another person's inhaler.
- No herbal or alternative medicines will be accepted in school.
- Specific arrangements are made before any school trip or off-site activity, including fire drills and evacuations.
- There is a process to monitor reliever inhaler use and parents are informed if the inhaler is used in the school day. **If the inhaler is used more than twice in a school week, an asthma review with the GP or asthma nurse would be advised.**
- There is a process to inform parents immediately if the student uses their reliever inhaler a second time in the school day.
- The school liaises with parents/carers, the school nursing service/ community specialist asthma nurses if there are concerns about asthma affecting the student in school.
- Any safeguarding concerns will be escalated to the Safeguarding Lead.

- Parents are informed when pupil/student's named reliever that is **stored by the school** is nearing expiry date.
- All staff receive training on asthma.
- All staff are aware to follow the student's personalised asthma action plan/ individual healthcare plan.
- All staff recognise an asthma attack and understand when and how to call an ambulance.
- The asthma lead/champion is trained to manage an emergency and will keep up to date with any change in guidance.
- Any stored inhalers should be cleaned and checked regularly according to instructions. If the inhaler and spacer have not been used and have been stored correctly there is no need for them to be washed.
- The emergency inhaler kit is managed and replenished in line with guidance.
- Parents/carers are informed if the school's emergency inhaler is used by their child.

All staff

Supporting pupils/students with asthma is everyone's concern. All staff should:

- Complete regular annual asthma training arranged and advised by asthma leads.
- Be aware of who is on the school asthma register and where inhalers and asthma action plans/individual healthcare plans are stored.
- Inform parents/carers immediately if the student does not have their inhaler.
- PE staff will check students have their inhaler before they take part in physical activity.
- Inform the asthma lead/champion if the school's emergency inhaler is used.
- Record inhaler use in line with the arrangements for record-keeping.
- Be aware of potential triggers, signs and symptoms of asthma and know how to recognise an asthma attack by following the child or young person's personalised asthma action plan.
- It is not a requirement for staff to administer the inhaled medication, but many are willing and trained to do so. Pupils/students are encouraged to be able to use their inhaler themselves with supervision where possible. If a member of staff is not willing to assist in giving the inhaler they should be able **to recognise the attack and seek appropriate assistance without delay.**

- Use the school's emergency inhaler only if the student's own inhaler is not quickly accessible as per the Emergency inhalers for use in schools emergency inhaler guidance. If the student is following a Maintenance and Reliever Therapy (MART) action plan and their own inhaler is not accessible, the school's emergency reliever can be used if parental/carer consent has been given as per emergency inhaler guidance. This can also be used when a child has a dry powder inhaler but is unable to take the deep breath in that is required to use it correctly because they are unwell. **This can be used if consent has been given in advance by the parent/carer.**
- Never leave the pupil/student alone or send them for a stored reliever inhaler. If they have symptoms, bring the inhaler to them.
- Listen to students and encourage them to tell a member of staff when they are feeling unwell or having asthma symptoms.
- **Never deny the inhaler if the student asks to take it.**
- Be kind and reassuring to students who are worried about their asthma or are having asthma symptoms.
- **Follow the student's asthma action plan/individual healthcare plan.**
- Allow students to resume activities if they feel better after taking their reliever inhaler.
- Promote an asthma friendly environment which is mindful of triggers such as allergens, irritants (sprays and air fresheners), volatile organic compounds (paints, glues, chemicals), wood dust, flour, changes in temperature, stress, indoor and outdoor pollution.
- Raise awareness that asthma can affect learning, concentration, mental health and wellbeing and attendance. Offer appropriate support to affected students.
- Offer support to students with severe asthma, including communication and collaboration with outside agencies to support the student and family.
- Deliver positive messages around the benefits of exercise on health and lung health.
- Raise awareness of smoking as a cause and a trigger for asthma.
- Always call 999 if there is any doubt when a pupil/student has asthma symptoms.

Parent/carers

The support of parents and carers is appreciated and opinions and feedback is valued. It is asked that parents/carers:

- Tell the school if the child has asthma or suspected asthma.
- Communicate with school staff about their child's asthma and act on requests made by the school.
- Give the school a copy of their child's up-to-date asthma action plan with details of their asthma medicines and triggers.
- Inform the school of any known triggers or allergies.
- Manage any seasonal allergies with the support of the GP/asthma nurse as this can trigger asthma symptoms.
- Meet with school staff if their child has severe or difficult to control asthma or co-existing conditions.
- Collaborate with the school to develop an individual healthcare plan if it is decided that this is needed.
- Tell the school of any changes in their child's asthma or if they have attended urgent care or hospital.
- Inform the school if there are any concerns about asthma affecting their child's education or participation in school activities.
- Ensure their child always carries their reliever inhaler and spacer device. This should be in the original pharmacy box clearly labelled with their name, date of birth, the prescriber's instructions, including dose and frequency.
- Inform the school if their child cannot carry their own inhaler so specific arrangements can be made.
- Ensure their child knows how to use their inhaler.
- Ensure their child knows when and how to ask a member of staff for help if they are having asthma symptoms or have taken their inhaler. If there are concerns that they won't feel confident to tell a member of staff, please arrange to speak with the school.
- Return medication and asthma action plan to school at the start of every school year, return inhalers promptly if they are removed from school for any reason.
- Encourage their child to take part in all school activities.
- Arrange an annual asthma review with their asthma nurse/GP and provide a new asthma action plan if it is updated.

Pupils and students

Pupils and students with asthma should be supported and their opinions and feedback are valued. They can help the school by:

- knowing how to use their inhaler correctly
- understanding what their symptoms feel like and knowing when to tell a member of staff
- always carrying their reliever inhaler device with spacer if needed
- informing a member of staff if they have used their reliever inhaler
- telling us about any asthma triggers in school
- telling a member of staff if they experience any bullying or are worried about being involved in school activities.

Asthma attacks

All staff receive training to recognise and act appropriately in the event of an asthma attack. They will follow the student's asthma action plan and school policy.

Thank you

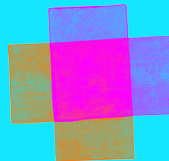
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