

Danemill Primary School



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Learning and discovering together

Asthma POLICY

Adopted October 2016

**RATIFIED AT FULL GOVERNING BODY
MEETING.....**

Danemill Primary School Asthma Policy

Background

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. 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. 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 and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All regular staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training. Training is updated once a year.

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 are kept in the classroom.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever/inhaler. The class teacher will hold this separately 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 (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy and following the procedures outlined in the school's Providing Support and Medical 'Administration of Medicines' policy (Local Authority Guidelines). All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in School

In March 2015, non-statutory guidance from the Department of Health was published enabling schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies. As a result, schools have now purchased emergency inhaler kits. The inhaler can be used in an emergency if the pupil's inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken or empty).

To comply with this guidance, school:

- have made arrangements for the supply, storage, care, and disposal of the inhaler and spacers in line with the school's policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- have a register of children in the school that have been diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, a copy of which is kept with the emergency inhaler
- have written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler and ensure it is only used by such children
- provide appropriate support and training for staff in the use of the emergency inhaler in line with the school's wider policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions

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- keep a record of use of the emergency inhaler as required and inform parents or carers that their child has used the emergency inhaler
- have at least two volunteers responsible for ensuring the protocol is followed

To read the guidance, please follow the link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf

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 contact form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK *School Asthma Card* to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. *School Asthma Cards* are then sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.
- Parents/carers are asked for written consent to administer emergency salbutamol inhalers held in school. A separate list will be compiled from this consent and kept with the emergency inhaler kits.

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 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. 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 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.

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. It is therefore important that the school 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 regular school staff are provided with training from the school nurse, who has had asthma training.
- Additional information about PE in schools is available in the Asthma UK parent pack, which can be accessed by parents/carers at www.asthma.org.uk or by calling their helpline on 0300 222 5800.

School environment

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- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. 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 are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

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 SENDCo (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator) about the pupil's needs.
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have Special Educational Needs due to their asthma.

Asthma attacks

- Nearly all staff who come into contact with pupils at school with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. Any staff who have not received direct training from the school nurse e.g. supply teachers, have access to information regarding pupils with asthma through the class planning folder.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom, communal areas and every classroom.

Appendices

School Asthma Card

Consent Form: Use of emergency salbutamol inhaler

Letter to inform parents of emergency salbutamol inhaler use