



Danemill
Primary School

Only the best is good enough.

Asthma POLICY

Adopted September 2022

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 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. There are first-aiders throughout the school who have had training on asthma as part of their paediatric first-aid training. Training is updated on a rolling programme, every three years. Where possible, all staff have access to asthma updates from the school nurse service.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential and therefore inhalers should be in school on a daily basis. 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 in a clearly labelled emergency medication box in a set place. All staff are made aware of this location.
- It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that all inhalers are in date and labelled with the child's details.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however all first-aid trained staff at this school are willing to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the RPA 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, school 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 schools wider policy on supporting pupils with medical conditions
- keep a record of use of the emergency inhaler as required and inform parents or carers that their child has used the emergency inhaler

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- 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 of children with asthma are asked to complete a yellow medical form with general information on their child's asthma condition. Some information will be collated onto the asthma register. This is kept in their personal file and a copy is put into their class medical box.
- Parents/carers are asked for written consent to administer emergency salbutamol inhalers held in school. Information on who has consented to their child using the emergency inhaler is found in the staffroom or their personal files. A copy of the emergency inhaler form, asthma card, medical form and 'my asthma plan' is also available in their class' medical box.

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. There are always first-aiders in school to advise and support in an emergency.

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- 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

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. Animals kept in school have individual risk assessments and parents are able to opt-out of contact with them. School 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 a different area of the school if particular fumes are known to 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.
- 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. Office staff are aware and will follow the protocol in an emergency.

Appendices

School Asthma Card

Consent Form: Use of emergency salbutamol inhaler

Medical Form

My Asthma Plan leaflet

Letter to inform parents of emergency salbutamol inhaler use