



This Asthma Policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, the National Asthma Campaign and the School Health Service. St Piran's school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma. St Piran's School encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and pupils.

Medication and Control

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. This will be kept by Matron in a labelled cupboard. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency; however many of our staff are happy to do this. Inhalers for pupils in the Nursery and Reception Departments are kept securely in those areas. Pupils who require an inhaler on a regular basis are listed in Matron's Room and also on the Whole School Medical Register which is located in the Staff Room. Each year group are given an individual list of the relevant pupils who need an inhaler. This children whose asthma requires better control, are allowed to take their inhaler with them whilst doing cross-country. For sporting events held on site, pupils are told to go to Matron's Room prior to the activity in order to receive the Ventolin.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each academic year, or when the child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. Information concerning children with asthma will be kept in the School Medical Register which is available for all staff to see. If the medication changes at all, parents are asked to inform Matron so that records can be updated.

Games, PE and Swimming

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Games, PE and swimming teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the Medical Register and via Matron. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE games and swimming. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise, to take their reliever inhaler before each lesson. Each inhaler is labelled and if a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

The School Environment

St Piran's school does all it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a no smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children can sit out of a lesson should the need arise.

Procedure to be followed in the event of an Asthma attack

- 1 Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
- 2 Stay calm and reassure the child.
- 3 Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.
- 4 The child should rest, sitting up, breathing slowly and deeply.
- 5 Do NOT take the child into cold air.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. After a short rest the child can return to the classroom. The parents of the child MUST be told of the attack.

Emergency procedure

Call for an ambulance and ring the parents if:

- The reliever has no effect after 5-10 minutes
- The child is distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts about the child's condition

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