

Woodlands Primary School

Asthma Policy



Written by	Sue Buxton
Ratified by Governors	Spring 2017
Date for Review	Spring 2020
Signed – Chair of Governors	
Signed – Headteacher	

This policy has been impact assessed by Mark Burns in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality

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.

Woodlands Primary 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 (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma during First Aid Courses which run biannually.

Asthma medicines

- Immediate access to the Asthma medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged keep them in the classroom unless otherwise advised.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with an in-date, labelled inhaler.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency and at KS1 where it is recorded), however 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. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

Record keeping

- When joining the school (in Reception or at any other time), parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. This is checked regularly.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are given a *School Asthma Card** to complete. Parents/carers are asked to take their card to their GP or asthma nurse and then return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. Parents/carers are 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, and make the school aware of this.

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 external PE teachers at the school are made 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 and TAs will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise, to take their inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with all 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.

- Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Children undertaking school sports clubs off-site or over in the alternative building (Oak to Acorn, Acorn to Oak) need to take inhalers with them. For KS1 children undertaking after-school sports clubs in Oak building/field, inhalers will be brought to the club by the class teacher or TA and returned to the classrooms the following day. For children in KS2 undertaking Sports clubs in Oak building, inhalers will be left in the classroom. If the club is in Acorn the KS2 child will be responsible for bringing their own inhalers to the club and leave them in school to be returned to class the next day.

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 involves pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.
- External 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. They are made aware of any child in their club who uses an Asthma inhaler.

School environment

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 smoke free 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 Inclusion Manager 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.

Asthma attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.