

Woodlands Primary School

Asthma Policy



Written by	Helen Wilson
Ratified by Governors	Spring 2023
Date for Review	Spring 2026
Signed – Chair of Governors	
Signed – Headteacher	
Is this an internal or external policy?	External
Is this based on a model policy?	No

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 are renewed every three years.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to asthma inhalers (and spacers if required) is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to keep their inhalers in the classroom unless otherwise advised by staff, for example for exercise and activity (see below).

Parents and carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with an in-date, labelled inhaler where one is needed.

School staff will administer asthma medicines to pupils in an emergency and when a child is unable to administer it for themselves. School staff 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 on their enrolment form if their child has any medical conditions including asthma. If a child develops asthma during their school years, a parent/guardian is expected to notify the school and would be provided with the relevant forms needed for completion.

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. Parents/carers are asked to make the school aware of any changes to medication or dosages. Asthma is recorded as a medical condition in SIMS (school information management programme). A record of all medical conditions is available to all staff.

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.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers and Teaching Assistants 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. 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 Key Stage 2 (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 and where the inhalers are kept.

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 feathered animals but has a hypo allergic school dog. We have 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 agree 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 Educational 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.

Document History	
Date	Summary of changes
March 2023	Updated school environment to include the introduction of the school dog