

# Highters Heath Community School

## Asthma Policy



### [Rights Respecting Schools' Article/s](#)

*A23: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.*

*A24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.*

Highters Heath Community School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma. Highters Heath Community School ensures that pupils with asthma can, and do, participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities.

Highters Heath Community School:

- ensures children have access to their inhalers as needed
- keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take
- ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- ensures that all pupils understand asthma
- ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, local authority, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully

## **Background**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education, Asthma UK, the Education Authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

## **Asthma Medicine**

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 that they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in their classroom and accessed by adults only.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with an in date, labelled inhaler. 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 some of the staff at this school are happy to do this.

School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

## **Record keeping**

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. All parents/carers of children with asthma are asked to book regular reviews with their child's doctor or asthma nurse and keep the school informed so records are kept up to date.

### **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; the details of children with asthma are kept in the school office and medical needs coordinator office. We encourage children, as they get older, to try to remember this themselves and to take more control in remembering their medication.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons and to take their inhaler with them. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. 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.

### **Off-site sport and swimming and Educational Visits.**

The health benefits of exercise are well documented. Asthma inhalers are taken off site with the children and looked after by the children themselves (KS2 and above) when the child participates in swimming, other sports activities and all educational visits. Younger children have their asthma inhalers looked after by the group leader.

### **School environment**

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. We will always consider pupils with asthma when we have visiting animal for curriculum purposes and a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in school that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.

### **If 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 Special Education Needs Coordinator 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 receive Asthma training from a qualified NHS representative on a yearly basis. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack; reminder posters are displayed around the school.

### **Linked Policies/Documents**

Medical Needs Policy

Accessibility and Disability Policy  
Administration of Medication Policy