

# ST. MICHAEL'S C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

## STEVENTON

### ASTHMA POLICY

The policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service and governing body.

1. St Michael's School recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. The 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, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

#### 3. Medication

Immediate access to inhalers is vital. The reliever inhalers and spacers, if necessary, are kept in the classroom with the teacher. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent and include guidelines on administration. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however many of our staff are prepared to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will ensure children take their medication when they need to. If a child refuses to take their inhaler, staff should not force them to do so, but should note this in the records, inform parents or nominated carers immediately and follow the emergency procedures detailed in this policy.

**It is the responsibility of parents/carers to regularly check the condition of inhalers and ensure that they are working and retain a therapeutic dose.**

#### 4. Record Keeping

When a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. From this information the school will record on the child's record that they have asthma and all staff are alerted. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school and complete a change of medication form, which is kept with the child's records. Parents must be made aware that it is their responsibility to ensure the inhaler left at school is always in date and to dispose safely of expired inhalers. A usage log will be kept in the classroom with the inhaler and completed each time the inhaler is used.

## 5. PE

Taking part in sports and swimming is an essential part of school life. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children with asthma to take their relievers with them. Each child's inhaler will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

## 6. Visits

Teachers will ensure inhalers are taken with them on all out of school activities for those children identified as requiring one.

## 7. The school environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room if their asthma is triggered by particular fumes.

## 8. Make the school asthma friendly

The school encourages children with asthma and their friends to learn about asthma. Information for children can be accessed from [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk).

## 9. When a child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of associated disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs co-ordinator about the situation and put in place a remedial plan. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

## 10. Asthma attacks

Staff are made aware of what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

1. **Help the child to sit upright, leaning on a table or chair if necessary**
2. **Help the child to use their reliever inhaler**
3. **Stay calm and reassure the child**
4. **Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.**

### **After the attack**

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

The child's parents must be told about the attack.

### **Emergency procedure**

Should the child exhibit any of the following:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is very distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

Call 999 and get an ambulance.

St. Michael's school will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure that the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.

To be reviewed in March 2023