Asthma Policy

Rye Community Primary School

This policy was adopted on 23.10.26
This policy is due for review on October 2027

Asthma Policy

At Rye Community Primary School, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children. Our school positively welcomes all children with asthma. We encourage pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by the school staff and pupils. Supply teachers, sports coaches (and other extra-curricular providers, as appropriate), and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

Children can experience varying signs and symptoms of an asthma attack which may include:

- Persistent cough
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Being unusually quiet
- The child complains of shortness of breath at rest, feeling tight in the chest (which younger children may describe as a tummy ache)
- Difficulty in breathing (fast and deep respiration)
- Nasal flaring
- Being unable to complete sentences
- Appearing exhausted

Immediate access to reliver medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhalers as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse, and class teacher agree they are mature enough. Within school, children's inhalers are kept in the classroom with them. Children ask a first aider if they need their inhaler. Emergency inhalers are located in the school office with easy access. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and in its original box. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their child has a pump in school. Use of asthma inhalers is recorded via Arbor. Parents are informed when their child has used their inhaler in school by an email via Medical tracker.

Written parental consent must be in place for the use of spare inhalers by pupils. Emergency school inhalers will be administered by staff trained in medicine administration. Their use will be recorded and parents will be informed via phone call.

Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools (publishing.service.gov.uk)

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff are happy to do this. First Aiders will support children to take their inhaler independently when they need to, and as agreed with parents in their Individual Healthcare Plan (if required).

In an emergency (unexpected asthma attack), school staff are required to act as any reasonable prudent person would. This may include administering emergency medicine. Staff will:

- Keep calm-do not panic
- Send for a qualified first aider-do not move the child

- Make sure that the specific directions of the reliever inhaler are followed
- Loosen clothing
- Reassure the pupil.

If there is no immediate improvement during an attack, continue to follow instructions of the reliever inhaler until symptoms improve.

CALL 999 if:

- The pupil's lips turn blue
- If you are in any doubt about the child's condition.

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. Our parent communications and information app (Arbor), can be updated with real time updates; if a medical diagnosis has been sought and agreed by a doctor, a parent/carer should ensure they inform school, who will update the child's Arbor account.

At our school children with critical asthma have an Individual Healthcare Plan. Parents/carers are asked to complete these with appropriate school staff. Parents/carers are asked to bring in the child's medical plan from the doctor. This informs the Asthma Register. From this information, the school keeps its asthma register. This is available for all staff to see. Parents/carers are asked to update this information annually or as required. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that any changes to their child's asthma medication or administration of this are updated.

Taking part in sports, games, trips, and other physical activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. All sports coaches/PE staff are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register. Any off-site activity must include the child's asthma kit.

Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise when they need to take their reliever inhaler; this might be before the active session. Their reliever inhaler will be taken with them to the room/area where the physical activity will take place and they will be able to use it if necessary.

The school does all that it can to ensure that the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a definitive no smoking policy. The school limits the use of any chemicals or aerosols. If at any time a particular fume is causing a child with asthma discomfort, they will be allowed to leave the room until the air clears.

If a child is missing a lot of time at school or is nearly always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parent/carer to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs in addition to their asthma. The school is aware that there may be safeguarding concerns if a child's asthma medication is out of date or unavailable.

Asthma Policy

The person responsible for updating the asthma register and checking the expiration dates of pupils' asthma medication is Lisa Nice