

Farsley Farfield Primary School

Asthma Policy

September 2018



Introduction:

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.

Farsley Farfield 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. We encourage 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.

School principles:

Farsley Farfield Primary School

- recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- 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
- recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- 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
- tries to ensure that all pupils have an awareness of asthma
- ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- understands that pupils with asthma may experience bullying and has procedures in place to prevent this
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, employers of school staff, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Asthma medicines:

- 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 they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in a designated space within each classroom.
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. The class teacher will hold this separately in case the pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- Farsley Farfield Primary School will hold asthma inhalers for emergency use for children on the school's asthma register, where written parental consent has been obtained and recorded in the child's IHCP.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the 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

- At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment/data collection form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma Card* to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return them to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. School Asthma Cards* are then sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also 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.
- At Farsley Farfield Primary School, pupils with asthma will also have an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP).
- The IHCP will detail the provision required and, where appropriate, training needed for staff and this may vary from pupil to pupil.
- Farsley Farfield Primary School has a '*Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions policy*' which should be referred in conjunction with these procedures.
- Each class will also have a 'class passport' which gives details of all pupils with a medical condition including asthma.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All staff know which children in their class have asthma and all staff delivering PE at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register and the class passports.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Staff 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. It is agreed with staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labelled and kept with them during the lesson or in a box at the location of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- Staff follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity.

Out-of-hours sport

Farsley Farfield Primary School recognises the health benefits of exercise for all children and young people including those with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs. In order to do this:

- All staff and 'out-of hours school sport coaches' are made 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.

School environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definitive no-smoking 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 outside the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

- At Farsley Farfield Primary School we do keep chickens and some furry animals. If a child's asthma is triggered by coming into contact with these animals, then this will be detailed on the child's asthma card.

Making the school asthma-friendly

The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma. This may be achieved through:

- lessons such as science, PE, history and PSHCE
- class assemblies
- Key Stage assemblies – some possibly delivered by the school nurse
- online resources
- engaging in national or global asthma awareness days

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 school nurse and 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 who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined below. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom.

What to do in an asthma attack

1. Make sure the child takes one to two puffs of their reliever inhaler, (usually blue) preferably through a spacer
2. Sit the child up and encourage them to take slow steady breaths.
3. If no immediate improvement, make sure the child takes two puffs of reliever inhaler, (one puff at a time) every two minutes. They can take up to ten puffs
4. If the child does not feel better after taking their inhaler as above, or if you are worried at any time, call 999 for an ambulance.
5. If an ambulance does not arrive within ten minutes repeat step 3.

Policy review date: July 2021

* Using a School Asthma Card

Because Farsley Farfield Primary School is planning to use a School Asthma Card*, we will need to send a School Asthma Card* to the parents/carers with a letter so parents/carers can ask their child's doctor or asthma nurse to fill it in. An exemplar letter can be found on the Asthma UK website: asthma.org.uk