



ASTHMA POLICY	
Date	June 2023
Review	June 2024
Reviewed by	Health and Safety Named Governor and Headteacher
Non - Statutory Policy for Website	
<p><i>Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at this school.</i></p>	
<p>Links with other policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting pupils with medical conditions • Educational Visits • First Aid 	

Sandlings Primary School encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by Sandlings team members, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new Sandlings team members are also made aware of the policy.

Our School:

- Recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including pe
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take and informs
- Parents if a child has had to take their inhaler and or the emergency inhaler.
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all sandlings team members who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school sandlings team members, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.
- Has designated emergency inhaler and sandlings team members instructed in the use of the emergency inhaler

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever is vital and parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled and in date spare reliever inhaler preferably in a named box. All school Sandlings team members will let children take their own medication when they need to. Inhalers will be required to be taken on all school visits and sporting activities and when children are involved in games lessons on the field and in the hall.

The emergency kit

The Department of Health (DH) has published non-statutory [guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools, GOV.UK – DH \(Adobe pdf file\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350640/guidance_on_use_of_emergency_inhalers_in_schools_September_2014_3_.pdf)https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/350640/guidance_on_use_of_emergency_inhalers_in_schools_September_2014_3_.pdf

It explains that schools are allowed to keep a salbutamol inhaler on the premises for use in emergencies. However, schools are not required to hold an inhaler if they do not want to.

Sandlings Primary School does hold an emergency inhaler and spacer as per Parents of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available. See Appendix 1 attached. Parents will be informed by letter if their child has used the emergency inhaler (Appendix 2).

Our emergency asthma inhaler kit includes:

- A salbutamol metered dose inhaler
- At least two plastic spacers compatible with the inhaler
- Instructions on using the inhaler and spacer
- Instructions on cleaning and storing the inhaler
- Manufacturer's information
- A checklist of inhalers identified by their batch number and expiry date, with monthly checks recorded
- A note of the arrangements for replacing the inhaler and spacers
- A list of children permitted to use the emergency inhaler, as detailed in their individual healthcare plans
- A record of when the inhaler has been used

We recognise that the emergency inhaler should only be used by children who have been diagnosed with asthma, and prescribed a reliever inhaler, or who have been prescribed and reliever inhaler AND whose parents have given consent for an emergency inhaler to be used.

Sandlings team members will call upon our designated members of trained Sandlings team members who the responsibility for helping to administer an emergency inhaler One designated member of Sandlings team members' is responsible for maintaining the kit on a monthly basis.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. All parents of children with asthma are given an (Asthma UK) School Asthma Card to complete and return to the school. From this information the

school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school Sandlings team members. Cards are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Each child's inhalers 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. During long distance races children in year 4,5, and 6 will run with their inhalers in hand and younger children will carry them in a waist holder bag.

Asthma Attacks

Common 'day to day' symptoms of asthma are:

- Cough and wheeze (a 'whistle' heard on breathing out) when exercising
- Shortness of breath when exercising
- Intermittent cough

These symptoms are usually responsive to use of their own inhaler and rest (e.g. Stopping exercise). They would not usually require the child to be sent home from school or to need urgent medical attention.

Signs of an asthma attack include:

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- 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 (younger children may express this feeling as a tummy ache)
- Difficulty in breathing (fast and deep respiration)

We recognise that if a child is displaying the above signs of an asthma attack, the guidance below on responding to an asthma attack should be followed:

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD:

- Appears exhausted
- Has a blue/white tinge around lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed

Responding to signs of an asthma attack

- Keep calm and reassure the child
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler
- Remain with child while inhaler and spacer are brought to them
- Immediately help the child to take two puffs of the salbutamol via the spacer
- immediately
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs every two

- minutes up to a maximum of 10 puffs, or until their symptoms improve. The inhaler should be shaken between puffs.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better
- If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way
- The child's parents or carers should be contacted after the ambulance has been called.
- A member of Sandlings team members should always accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until a parent or carer arrives

**Consent Form:
Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler**

Child showing symptoms of asthma/having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler (delete as appropriate)

2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which is kept at school.

3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, *I do/ *do not consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

*please mark as appropriate

Signed: Date:

Name: (print)

Child's Name:

Class:

Parent's address and contact details:

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Telephone:

E-Mail:

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Please return to the school office as soon as possible c/o Mrs Durant

Appendix 2

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use Form

Child's name:

Class:

Date:

Dear

This letter is to formally notify you that has had problems with his/her breathing today. This happened when

*They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of Sandlings team members helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given Puffs.

*Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of Sandlings team members helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

*Delete as appropriate