

CHARFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Working together....
Learning for life*



Asthma Policy

Author		D Lawday / S Tyler	
Date approved by Finance / Curriculum Committee		Chair of Committee	
Date ratified by Full Governing Body		Chair of Governors	
Start Date	Jan 11	Headteacher	
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Aims (see NAC Section 5)

Charfield School:

- recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many children and welcomes all pupils with asthma into the school community
- ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- recognises that immediate access to relief inhalers is vital
- keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- ensures that the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- ensures that other children understand asthma
- ensures all staff are fully informed about asthma and know what to do in the event of an asthma attack/ training provided.
- 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

1 Objectives

- The school keeps medication in an accessible location for pupils
- The school keeps back-up medication in a secure area
- Careful records are kept about who suffers from asthma and when they need to use their medication.
- Pupils have their medication with them during PE or other activities away from the classroom.
- The school ensures the environment of the school is favourable to asthma sufferers.
- We educate the pupils at Charfield about asthma.
- There are clear procedures to follow regarding poor attendance as a result of asthma.
- There are clear procedures to follow for when a child needs their asthma pump.
- Staff have access to relevant information re asthma

Medication (see NAC Section 2)

Blue reliever inhalers are kept in class rooms (see Appendix 2). Immediate access to blue reliever inhalers is vital. They are kept in the pupils class in a plastic box for class. An additional 'spare' inhaler is kept in the school office. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. First Aiders check that asthma pumps are clearly labelled on a regular basis.

If a child needs their asthma pump, the First Aider on duty should be contacted straight away. School staff are not required to administer medication. However, they will supervise the child taking his/her relief inhaler, and will check that the pupil has

made a written note in the asthma book after they have recovered. If the pupil is using the inhaler frequently, parents to be informed and advised to use the brown and green inhalers more and/or consult their GP about their child's medication.

Record keeping (see NAC Section 7)

Each term or when a child joins the school, parents are asked for up to date contact details and medical information on their children including if their child has asthma. Parents are asked for an update of this information every time their child goes on a trip. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school straight away. First Aiders keep a check on asthma pumps: parents are informed if a pump is nearly out of date and asked to provide a replacement.

Physical Education and other activities that take place away from the classroom (see NAC Section 4)

Taking part in PE and school sport is an essential part of school life. Staff will be aware from the school's asthma register which children have asthma. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE and sport. Children whose asthma is triggered by exercise must take their relief inhaler before the lesson and to make sure they complete a warm-up before the lesson begins. They must also take their pump on all offsite activities such as swimming, educational day visits and residential school journeys. The child/ class teacher must ensure this asthma pump goes back to the box afterwards.

The School Environment (see NAC Section 7)

Charfield School does all it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. If a child's asthma is triggered by a particular substance being used in a lesson, they will use their relief inhaler and go to sit in an alternative classroom until the activity is over.

Making the school asthma friendly (see NAC Section 7)

The school ensures that all children are given information about asthma appropriate to their age and understanding. Asthma is included in key stages 1 and 2 in science and other subjects as appropriate.

Staff receive training about asthma and how to respond to an asthma attack.

Useful telephone numbers:-

The Asthma Helpline: 0845 7010203.

Attendance

If a child is missing a lot of schooling because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the SENCO who may decide to discuss the matter with the school nurse. The school will suggest to the parent that they consult their GP about their child's medication.

The school recognises that it is possible for children to have special educational needs as a result of the severity of the effects of their condition.

If a child needs their asthma pump (see NAC Section 3)

A list of asthma attack symptoms is displayed in each classroom, in First aid and office areas. (see Appendix 3). If a child needs their asthma pump **during lesson time**, the First Aider should be contacted straight away. School staff are not required to administer medication. However, they will supervise the child taking his/her relief inhaler and therefore all staff need to know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The procedure is clearly displayed in all classrooms (See Appendix 1).

What happens after a Asthma Reliever is taken or an Asthma Attack?

- The need for an asthma pump should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they should record their use of an asthma pump in the asthma book. They can return to school activities.
- **If the child has had an asthma attack**, the child's parent is informed. The member of staff will record details of the attack in the asthma book (Name, time, place, trigger - if known).

For further information and guidance:

www.asthma.org.uk

J:\Health & Safety\Medical\Asthma (Teacher Shared Drive)

What to do if a child has an asthma attack when in the school building



INITIAL PROCEDURES

- 1 Send an adult immediately to the child's class to bring the child's asthma pump up to class and to contact the First Aider on duty.
- 2 Stay calm and reassure the child (listen to the child and comfort them by stroking a hand etc)
- 3 Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened. Encourage them to breathe slowly and deeply. Encourage them to sit upright or leaning slightly forward (not lying flat on their backs). Offer them a glass of water.
- 4 Once the asthma pump has arrived ensure that the blue relief inhaler is taken immediately. If the child continues to have difficulty breathing, administer 2 puffs every two minutes until a maximum of 10 puffs has been given. At this point if the child is still in distress follow the

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

If:-

- the relief inhaler has no effect after ten minutes / after 10 puffs
- the child is either distressed or unable to talk
- the child is getting exhausted
- you have any doubts at all about the child's condition

Then follow this emergency procedure:

1. Call an ambulance.
2. Call the child's parent/carer.
3. Continue to give reliever medication; 2 puffs every 2 minutes until help arrives.

(A child should not be taken to hospital in a staff member's car- always in an ambulance)

What to do if a child has an asthma attack when in the school playground



INITIAL PROCEDURES

- 1 An adult must accompany the child to their class immediately or send another adult to collect the pump.
- 2 Stay calm and reassure the child (listen to the child and comfort them by stroking a hand etc)
- 3 Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened. Encourage them to breathe slowly and deeply. Encourage them to sit upright or leaning slightly forward (not lying flat on their backs). Offer them a glass of water.
- 4 Once the asthma pump has arrived ensure that the blue relief inhaler is taken immediately. If the child continues to have difficulty breathing, administer 2 puffs every two minutes until a maximum of 10 puffs has been given. At this point if the child is still in distress follow the EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

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Then follow this emergency procedure:

4. Call an ambulance.
5. Call the child's parent/carer.
6. Continue to give reliever medication; 2 puffs every 2 minutes until help arrives.

(A child should not be taken to hospital in a staff member's car- always in an ambulance)

