



ARAGON PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

Date: September 2024

Review: September 2025

Information regarding triggers for asthma may be subject to change as further research is made known and as such this policy may be subject to change before the review date.

ARAGON PRIMARY SCHOOL'S approach to asthma

- Recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many children. It positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- Encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life;
- Helps and encourages pupils with asthma to manage their own condition safely and effectively.
- Ensures that pupils with asthma have the confidence to ask for support from the school when required.
- The school believes that the Asthma Policy will promote increased attendance, participation and achievement for pupils with asthma;
- Enable all pupils to understand, appreciate and encourage the achievements of people with asthma;
- Enable all school staff to understand and assist pupils with asthma when necessary and appropriate;

Training:

The school has a regular programme of training and staff consultation which covers all the medical conditions, including asthma, of children in their care. All staff are made aware of when and where to ask for support in dealing with medical conditions.

Using Inhalers and Responsibilities

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children are allowed to carry and use their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough to do so.

The reliever inhalers of younger children are stored safely in the classroom and are available for use on request or when indicated.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that the child has a labelled inhaler with the issue date and the child's name.

It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that inhalers in daily use by their child are checked termly and renewed when necessary and it is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that inhalers are fit for current use.

Parents/carers must supply the school with a spare labelled inhaler for use if the child's inhaler is lost, runs out or is forgotten. Spare inhalers must also be checked / renewed as necessary.

We are formally advised by Asthma UK that reliever inhalers are inherently safe medicines. (Clearly pupils should not be allowed to use each other's inhalers as it is illegal and increases the risk of spreading infection).

The Medical Room Cupboard contains **Two Emergency Asthma** packs that are available for use in emergencies if required.

Although Aragon Primary School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency they will allow children take their own medication when they need to. Many staff however are prepared to help with medication and the staff who agree to do this are insured by the Willow Learning Trust when acting in accordance with this policy.

Medical Information and Responsibilities

The school has a system to inform all staff of pupils' medical needs and the arrangement in place to meet them. At the beginning of the school year, or when the pupil joins the school, parents/carers have the opportunity to inform staff if their child has asthma.

Parents/carers have the responsibility to inform the school if the medication of their child changes and also to provide replacement/updated inhalers.

PE/Sport/Off-site activities

The school seeks to take all practical steps to encourage and enable pupils with asthma to take part in PE.

All staff are aware that pupils must use their inhalers when they need to and will give appropriate support to children to take their inhaler before the lesson and/or warm up before exercise.

The school is working towards pupils confidently managing their own asthma condition and pupils can request opportunities to use their inhaler and to warm up prior to PE lessons.

When classes take place off-site or away from classrooms, the school will require pupils who need them to have inhalers and make arrangements for the safe transport and storage of inhalers when it is not practical for the pupil to carry his or her own inhaler.

On extended/residential trips the school will require pupils who use inhalers to bring an appropriate supply.

Triggers for Asthma

The school undertakes to do all it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children or staff with asthma or other respiratory conditions.

Actions taken to include:

- A no smoking policy throughout the school building.
- Housing of and access to school pets and animals will be managed to minimise the risk of asthma attacks.
- Alternatives will be used to chemicals or art materials which may trigger asthma. Where this is not possible alternative lesson activities will be provided.
- Where building works may create a dusty environment, remedial action will be taken to prevent asthma attacks.
- At Aragon no spray air fresheners will be used at any time since these are known to trigger asthma attacks in some individuals.

When a child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is absent from school because of asthma, or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep due to the condition, the class teacher will initially talk to the parent/carer.

If appropriate, the class teacher will consult the school nurse and/or special educational needs co-ordinator regarding any action to be taken.

The school recognises that children with asthma may have special educational needs because of their condition.

Asthma attacks:

Minor attacks

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. A short rest period may be indicated.

The child's parent/carer will be told about attacks which are minor but frequent.

The child's class teacher is expected to have sufficient information to comment on the general nature of the condition and the effect it has on the pupil's educational progress. The school does not undertake to keep definitive records of all asthma attacks.

Action to take

- Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
- Stay calm and reassure the child
- Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened
- If the child is in extreme distress, **call an ambulance!**

A severe attack is defined as:

- The inhaler has no effect after five to ten minutes;
- The child is distressed or unable to talk;
- The child is becoming exhausted;
- The child shows signs of rapid deterioration;
- There is any doubt at all about the child's condition;

Emergency procedure/Severe attacks - call an ambulance!

Repeat the reliever inhaler every few minutes until help arrives. If a child is in severe distress, or experiences any loss of consciousness, call an ambulance immediately.

Display of Action and Emergency Procedures

The school will prominently display the information given in above and in particular the instructions for dealing with a severe asthma attack. The display will be available in the staff room, the main office and the school medical room.

Recording of severe attacks

In the event of a pupil having a severe asthma attack it is the responsibility of the school to inform the parent/carer.

Severe attacks will be recorded through the school's normal procedure for recording medical incidents.

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to give the school contact telephone numbers in case of a severe attack. These should consist of a primary parent/carer workplace and home telephone numbers, plus a further contact number (which could be other parent of relative) in case they are not reachable at workplace or home.

Monitoring

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored in line with the school's monitoring and reviewing of school policy procedures.

Date of policy implementation:

September 2024

Date of next review:

September 2025

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