

# St. Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School

## Asthma Policy

### Recognising and celebrating the presence of Christ in one another

- ◆ St Mary of the Angels Catholic Primary School aims to be a positive force within the Catholic Church inspired by the life of Christ in the Gospel.
- ◆ The school is committed to the widest and fullest education with ambition for all pupils in a partnership between home, school, parish and community.
- ◆ The school aims to create a happy, ordered environment where all members feel secure and valued.



<b>Current date approved:</b>	<b>January 2025</b>
<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Full Governing Body</b>
<b>Date of next review:</b>	<b>January 2026</b>

## Aims of the Policy

Approximately one in eleven children have asthma and numbers are increasing. We want to make sure that having asthma does not mean that children miss out on opportunities when they are at school. Most children with asthma can have a full and active life. This policy will help pupils with the management of their asthma while pupils are at school. This policy supplements the Administration of Medication in School Policy, Health and Safety Policy and 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs' Policy.

## Asthma register

- When a child joins the school, part of their admission pack is a contact form to alert the school to medical conditions including asthma needs. The return of this completed form will ensure that they are placed on the St Mary of the Angels' Asthma Register. The Asthma named link staff member, Mrs. Joyce, will collate the register and also contact the parents or named responsible carer, to obtain the inhalers and spacers that will be held by the school.

## Indemnity

- Staff who are happy to administer medication will be provided with indemnity.
- In emergencies, staff should act as any prudent parent would, which may include giving medication.
- Each inhaler and spacer provided by parents/carers for pupils to use must be within date, named and prescribed with an appropriate pharmacy label. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to be aware of the expiry dates and replace medication when required. In addition to this, at St Mary's, we log the medication in school using 'Medical Tracker' and an email is sent to parents to remind them that their child's medication is due to expire.

## Access to Inhalers

- Individual pupils' inhalers are kept in a 'green string bag' in their classrooms, clearly labelled.
- Children are allowed access to their inhalers at any time in the school day, should they feel the need to use it.
- Inhalers should accompany them when taking part in off-site activities, or residential trips.
- An emergency Inhaler should be taken outside, along with the register for fire drills.
- School has 4 spare emergency inhalers and spacers, located in the different areas of the school to ensure pupils get quick access to their medication. Posters around school ensure staff are aware the location of the inhalers.

## Staff Awareness and action in asthma emergencies

- All staff need to be able to manage attacks. Staff will do what a 'reasonable parent' would do in the circumstances prevailing at the time.
- For mild attacks children should take their usual reliever inhaler, as per instructions.
- If the child:
  - does not feel better in 5-10 minutes,
  - is distressed or exhausted,
  - is unable to talk in sentences,
  - has blue lips

or you have any doubts, then the action required is...

- One adult should stay with the pupil and use the reliever inhaler via spacer, while another adult dials 999 for an ambulance and states that the child is having a severe asthma attack requiring immediate attention.
- Continue to give the relief inhaler as per instructions and follow any other instructions from the emergency services while help arrives.
- Inform parents of the situation and actions taken.
- The incident should then be recorded using Medical Tracker, detailing the dosage and symptoms of the child.

## Unavailable or Lost Inhalers

- If a child's condition does not indicate the need to dial 999 i.e. not a severe attack, staff will contact parents to bring in an inhaler or collect child.
- Alternatively, if written parental consent has been given, staff can access the spare emergency inhalers kept in various locations, labelled "spare emergency inhaler." School also provide single use spacers. A spare inhaler is also stored in the evacuation bag located in the school office. These are safe, central locations.
- If the child is experiencing a severe attack, staff will call 999 without delay. They will inform the emergency services that school have a spare inhaler -if the child has no inhaler in school and no parental consent has been given to administer the spare inhaler. Emergency services will advise us accordingly if they wish school to administer the inhaler.

## Training

- Our Head teacher is responsible for assessing and arranging for training needs to be met annually. The most recent training took place in September 2024, led by the School Nursing Service. The mandatory Asthma training is due for renewal in September 2025.
- Posters/Leaflets which contain emergency information will be displayed at key points throughout the school.
- The School Nursing Service has recently awarded St Mary's the achievement of being an 'Asthma Friendly School' which is valid for two years from November 2024.

## Home/School Liaison

- Parents are asked to complete and update medical records on admission, and to update them annually. They are also required to update them more frequently if the condition or medication changes.
- Absence of parental consent should not stop staff from acting appropriately in emergencies; staff should seek advice from emergency services.
- Parents will be informed if an inhaler is used during the day, by email via Medical Tracker. If the spare inhaler is administered, staff will record this on Medical Tracker and parents will be informed by email.
- Some children need to be administered their inhaler before/after each PE lesson or before break-times on a regular basis. This is either recorded on the 'Medical Tracker' or detailed in a child's individual healthcare plan and Mrs. Joyce will liaise with parents to ensure that their child's needs are met.

## Minimising exposure to triggers

- We will avoid feathery or furry school pets.
- There is a complete ban on smoking and vaping in or on the school premises.
- We inform children, parents and staff that we are a nut free school.

Asthma link staff member– Mrs. J Joyce