WyreForestSchool

Supporting Pupils with Asthma

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Signature:			

Contents

1. Introduction

Wyre Forest School is committed to ensuring that pupils with Asthma are properly supported so that they have full access to their education, including school trips, PE and outdoor learning. This policy aims to provide best practice for supporting pupils with Asthma.

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on the following legislation and guidance:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE guidance) Other relevant health and safety legislation.
- Herefordshire and Worcestershire Asthma Guidance Document 2025

This policy meets the requirements under Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which places a duty on governing boards to plan for supporting pupils at their school with medical conditions.
It is also based on the Department for Education's statutory guidance 2014 (updated 2015) on supporting pupils with medical conditions at school .

3. Asthma Prevalence

• Asthma is one of the most common chronic conditions, affecting one in eleven children in the UK.
• There are over 25,000 emergency hospital admissions for asthma amongst children a year in the UK
. • Children with persistent, uncontrolled, or severe asthma are more likely to miss school, compared to children with mild asthma. Research shows that asthma is responsible for up to 18% of school absences, with evidence showing that improved asthma control supports school attendance and performance.
• Every September, more children are rushed to hospital due to their asthma than at any other time of year.
• There are over 6,200 children and young people living across Herefordshire and Worcestershire with a diagnosis of asthma.

4. What is Asthma?

Asthma is a condition that affects small tubes (airways) that carry air in and out of the lungs. When a child with asthma is exposed to something that irritates their airways (an asthma trigger), the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten up so that the airways become narrow and inflamed. Sticky mucus or phlegm also builds up, which can further narrow the airways. These reactions make it difficult to breathe, leading to symptoms of asthma. The most common day-to-day symptoms of asthma are:
• Dry cough
• Wheeze (a 'whistle' heard on breathing out) often when exercising
• Shortness of Breath when exposed to a trigger or exercising
• Tight chest
• Tummy ache in younger children

5. Wyre Forest School Responsibilities in meeting the needs of pupils with Asthma

At Wyre Forest School, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition. This school welcomes all pupils with asthma and aims to support these children to participate fully in school life.

We endeavour to do this by ensuring WFS school has:

An asthma register

Up-to-date asthma policy

An asthma lead – Lotte Tvede (First Aider)

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler at all times

Up-to-date asthma action plans for all relevant pupils
An emergency salbutamol inhaler stored in the Medical Room

Annual Asthma training delivered to all staff by the Special School Nursing Team

6. WFS Management of Asthma

- Ensure that the school's asthma policy is read and understood by all members of staff including teachers, teaching assistants, support staff and catering staff.

- Ensure **all** members of staff attend or have access to asthma awareness training via the Special School Nursing Team.

- Make the school asthma policy available to parents and carers on the school website

- Review the asthma policy annually and conduct an annual review of the safe management of asthma in school.

- Be aware of potential triggers, signs and symptoms of asthma and emergency asthma plans.

- Allow all students with asthma to **always** have immediate access to their emergency medicines; including during activity or exercise and are allowed to use them when needed.

- Know which pupils have asthma and be familiar with the content of their individual health care plan.

- Inform parents if a child uses their reliever inhaler after an exacerbation.

- Encourage parents/carers to seek a clinical review if a child regularly uses their inhaler at school.

- Be aware that asthma can affect a pupil's learning and provide extra help when needed.

- Understand asthma and the impact on our pupils - students should **not** be forced to take part in an activity if they feel unwell. Where a pattern of asthma is identified or there are concerns about an individual pupil, inform their parent /carer.

- Ensure pupils with asthma are not excluded from activities in which they wish to take part.

- Ensure all staff attending off site visits are aware of any pupils on the visit with asthma and that they have brought their medication. This should be included in the risk assessment.

Ensure pupils that are competent to self- administer their inhaler are closely monitored by staff member. The number of puffs should be counted by staff member and logged.

7. School Asthma Lead (First Aider) Responsibilities (In Liaison with the Special School Nursing Team)

- Being familiar with the Herefordshire and Worcestershire School Asthma Guidance and championing its implementation in school.
- Ensuring an adequate supply of emergency kits and obtain replacements from the local pharmacy.
- Implementing the school asthma policy.
- Ensuring the asthma register is up-to-date and accessible to all staff and includes identification of children and new starters with asthma.
    - Ensuring all children on the register have: parental consent for medications administration
    - An accessible reliever inhaler
    - A care plan in school.

- Ensuring medication use is monitored.
- Parents/Carers should be informed if the child uses a reliever inhaler during the school day.
- If a pattern of regular use is emerging at school (over 3 times a week) –parents / carers must be advised to contact their GP to review the child's asthma.
    - Ensuring asthma training is up to date for all staff; the Preventable film should be shared with **all** new staff.
    - Monitoring absences from school due to asthma.
    - Checking medication expiry dates at least every half term and impending expiry dates are communicated to parent / carer; replacement inhalers are obtained before the expiry date.

- Ensuring emergency inhalers are washed and expiry dates are checked.
- Keeping a record of the number of puffs used each time a reliever inhaler is accessed, and inform parents when medications are running out or nearing their expiry date; notify parents 2 months in advance. *Inhalers have up to 200 puffs; please check on the label.*
- Ensuring an emergency plan is available and visible to all staff and used as reference in the event of an asthma attack.
- Checking emergency kits regularly and contents replenished immediately after use.
- Completing the Asthma Compliance Checklist.

8. Responsibilities of a Parent/Carer of Pupils with Asthma

Parents and carers are expected to:

- Inform the school if their child has asthma
- Support the school with the completion of the individual health care plan
- Access a 12 monthly asthma review provided by the child's general practice and share the child's personal asthma action plan with the school.
- Inform the school of any relevant changes to their child's asthma status or changes to medications.
- Ensure that at least one reliever inhaler (normally blue) and spacer has been supplied to the school with the child's full details clearly labelled on the inhaler and spacer.
- Ensure their child's inhaler/s in school are in date and replaced if they are running low.
- Communicate any concern about their child's asthma to the school
- To inform transport if their child accesses this to and from Wyre Forest School

9. Key Documentation

Personal Asthma Action Plans

A Personal Asthma Action Plan (PAAP) is a written document, held by the child's parent / carer that provides specific guidance on how an individual with asthma should manage their condition. It is developed by the child's GP or Nurse / Asthma Practitioner and serves as a practical tool for the effective management of asthma. The plan includes information on what symptoms to look out for and what to do if the child's asthma gets worse. It should be reviewed and updated by the GP or Nurse Practitioner as part of the child's annual asthma review.

Every child with Asthma must have a PAAP in place; Wyre Forest School/Special School Nursing Team will request a copy of the PAAP from the parent / carer to inform school healthcare plans and Education Healthcare Plans where appropriate.

Individual Healthcare Plan

An Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) is a critical tool for addressing the unique healthcare needs of our pupils at Wyre Forest School, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for their education. It ensures the safety of the pupil by providing clear guidelines for managing their health condition, particularly in emergency situations. The plan is held and maintained by the school and should be developed in collaboration with parents/carers and healthcare providers.

Education Health and Care Plan

All pupils that attend Wyre Forest School have an EHCP in place. When they are also living with a long term condition such as asthma this should be inputted into relevant sections of the document

10. APPENDICES (linked documents)

Appendix 1; Compliance Checklist

Criteria

School Asthma Policy

- School asthma policy in place, developed using the Herefordshire and Worcestershire asthma guidance.
- To be reviewed on a regular basis
- All staff know how to access the policy and understand and adhere to it's content**.**

Asthma Register

- Have a named individual responsible for asthma.
- Asthma register in place and available to all staff, including supply teachers.
- Supply teachers informed what to do in an emergency.
- System in place to identify pupils who have frequent absences from school due to asthma.

Individual Healthcare Plans

- Children with asthma must have an individual healthcare plan in place at school. As a minimum, this should detail:

child's name and date of birth, asthma triggers, what medications are being taken for asthma and how frequently, an emergency plan. The child's personal asthma action plan could be used for this with more detailed information being recorded on a school plan in collaboration with the child's parent / carer.

Asthma Medication

- Children must have asthma medication and spacer device provided by the parent; either kept in school or carried by the child if they are able to self-manage (usually by secondary school age).
- Medications must be clearly labelled with the child's name and expiry date.
- Inhalers (including emergency inhalers) and spacer devices should be made easily accessible with spacer devices throughout the day, and all staff and pupils know where it is stored.
- Inhalers must be kept in a cool environment and cleaned along with spacers after use.
- Use of reliever medication must be recorded and parents informed of use.

Staff Training

- All school staff must attend face to face asthma awareness training every year via the Special school nursing team.
- Asthma awareness should be a minimum of 30 minutes and include the following elements:
- What is Asthma and why it is important
- Asthma Triggers
- Asthma signs and symptoms
- How to use an inhaler
- Cleaning and disposal of inhalers / spacers
- What to do if a child has an asthma attack
- Safeguarding Children with Asthma
- Understanding of Care Plans
- Asthma attack flow charts must be displayed in school and all staff to be familiar.
- Staff administering inhalers should be knowledgeable of the correct technique.
- All school staff to complete the free tier one online training module provided by Education For Health on an annual basis. Also recommended for all staff to watch 'Preventable' video on an annual basis as part of school training.

Emergency Inhaler Kits

- A minimum of 3 emergency kits must be conveniently located throughout the school and easily accessible during various times including lessons, PE and breaktime. Emergency kits consist of:
- Asthma Register
- 1 spacer device (where not provided by the parent/carer)
- 1 salbutamol 100mcgs per puff inhaler (where consented by parent/carer for emergency use)
- Information leaflet on how to administer
- Asthma Attack Flow Chart
- Letter template to send to parent informing them that an inhaler has been used