



BISHOP WINNINGTON INGRAM SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

Rationale

This policy exists to help ensure the safety and well being of children who need asthma inhalers and to set out clearly the procedures involved.

Aim

To ensure that all staff and children know the symptoms and are aware of procedures involving children with asthma.

What is Asthma

Asthma is a condition where by the air passages of the lungs become inflamed, swollen and narrowed, as a result the sufferer finds it difficult to breathe. This narrowing of the air passages is known as an asthma attack

Common Triggers

- *Dusty atmosphere
- *Weather
- *Grass pollen
- *Contact with pets and animals
- *Viral infection
- *Exercise or activity
- *Excitement or vigorous laughing
- *Certain foods
- *Stress

How to Recognise an Attack

The sufferer may cough, wheeze or have shortness of breath, may complain of tightness in the chest, have difficulty speaking, stomach ache and/or may be unusually quiet.

Treatment

The condition is commonly relieved by inhalers, relievers are usually blue in colour. Brown preventer inhalers are only used at home and are not kept in school.

Assisting the Sufferer

- *Do ensure the sufferer is kept calm
- *Do not hug the sufferer
- *Do not let them lie down
- *Do not leave the alone
- *Do let them sit up and lean slightly forward
- *Do loosen tight clothing
- *Do talk to the sufferer and reassure him/her
- *Do inform the parents that the pupil/student has suffered an attack
- *Do keep records of this incident in the school

Procedure

1. A list of known asthma sufferers will be compiled and regularly updated by the Welfare Assistant. This will be kept with the Welfare Room
2. Each asthmatic child should have 1 named inhaler in school. Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 will have one inhaler in the classroom and access to the Emergency Inhaler in the Welfare Room.
3. Asthma record cards are completed by the parents and returned to School.

4. An inhaler bag has been set up by the Welfare Assistant, labelled and kept in each classroom. The bag will contain inhalers, record books and pen. In the event of no children in the class with asthma there will still be a box provided with a note. `No children with asthma in this class.
5. The inhaler bags will be taken by the Class Teacher to PE, Swimming, School Trips, etc. Children will be encouraged to take responsibility for themselves and their inhaler. A record of any medication administered must be made, and supervised by a responsible adult.
A responsible adult will administer the inhalers during break/lunch period and inform the Welfare Assistant of the dose and time the inhaler was administered.
6. Lunchtime procedure – If children are going to the school field, the SMSAs will take class inhaler bags with them. If children are in the playground, the bags remain in the classes and a trained SMSA will collect bags or take children to the appropriate class to administer the inhaler. SMSAs should record the time, name and details of any child using an inhaler during the lunchtime period.
7. Asthma Bags, Emergency Inhaler Bags and expiry dates on inhalers will be checked regularly by the Welfare Assistant.
8. The Welfare Assistant will notify parents if their child needs an inhaler more than the recommended number of times.
9. Parents will be asked to advise the Welfare Assistant in writing of any changes to their child's asthma treatment or condition.
10. All First Aiders have had training and have been given information on dealing with asthmatics. Any concerns should be discussed with the Welfare Assistant.
11. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure all asthmatic children have an inhaler with them when out of school on a day-trip and that these inhalers are returned to school immediately upon return from the trip. The adult responsible for them must be made aware of the asthmatic children in their group.
12. When children are away from school on a residential trip, it is the group leader's responsibility to ensure that 2 inhalers for each asthmatic child are included – 1 in the First Aid box and 1 to be held by the child. The group leader must also ensure they are fully aware of the procedures for each individual child.

Reviewed:
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