



# Asthma Policy

# North Cave C E Primary School

## SCHOOL VISION STATEMENT

### OUR VISION

Our vision is for every child to achieve their full potential through distinctive Christian values within a stimulating and friendly environment: to ensure that each child has the necessary skills to become a confident adult in an increasingly challenging and global world.

### OUR AIMS

We aim to be a school that values individuality and gives time for every child.

We aim to develop.....

#### **A creative person**

a child who is independent, inventive and an individual  
a child who can solve problems  
a child who is full of imagination

#### **A co-operative person**

a child who is part of a team  
a child who loves learning  
a child who can form positive relationships

#### **An environmentally friendly person**

a child who is aware of how humans impact on the world  
a child who looks after the environment  
a child who shows responsibility

#### **A working person**

a child who is motivated  
a child who is an independent learner  
a child who responds positively to new things/ideas

#### **An enlightened person**

a child who is aware of their surroundings  
a child who feels the wonder of "I can do it"  
a child who is open minded and tolerant

#### **A person searching for meaning**

a child who seeks to find out  
a child who strives to understand  
a child who actively questions

# North Cave C E Primary School

## ASTHMA POLICY

This policy has been written with advice from Asthma UK, the Department for Education and Skills and the governing body.

North Cave School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. All pupils with asthma should have a prescribed inhaler in school. This school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of this policy. The majority of the support staff in school are first-aid trained and the designated first-aider has received asthma training. Pupils who have an asthma attack will be dealt with in a sympathetic manner.

### Emergency Inhaler

The school holds a Salbutamol Inhaler for use in emergencies. The inhaler can only be used if a parent has completed the consent form. The consent form is issued to all parents of children who are on our asthma register.

### Asthma Medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Children in Year 5 and Year 6 keep their inhaler in their classroom drawer. For children in EYFS to Year 4 their inhalers are kept in the school office. The children are aware of the location of their inhalers and an adult supervises the use of any inhalers.
- **All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. Parents/carers are asked to check inhalers are in date on a regular basis.** (This is also monitored by staff.) Parents/carers are also asked to complete a medical record form giving details of the type of inhaler held and frequency of use etc.
- School staff are not expected to administer medicines to children (except in an emergency) – see Medicines In School Policy
- On school visits, individual inhalers are taken as well as the school's emergency inhaler.

### Record Keeping

- When a child joins the school the parents/carer are asked if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their enrolment form/medical form.
- Parents/carers are also asked on an annual basis to inform the school if their child has developed asthma.
- A record is kept in school of each time a child uses their inhaler.

### Exercise and Activity – PE and Games

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma from the school's medical register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all P.E. lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

### School Environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. The school is a no smoking site

## **What to do in an asthma attack**

### **Common signs of an asthma attack**

- coughing
- shortness of breath
- wheezing
- feeling tight in the chest
- being unusually quiet
- difficulty speaking in full sentences
- tummy ache (sometimes in younger children).

### **What to do**

- keep calm
- encourage the child or young person to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- make sure the child or young person takes two puffs of reliever inhaler (usually blue) immediately (preferably through a spacer)
- ensure tight clothing is loosened
- reassure the child.

### **If there is no immediate improvement**

Continue to make sure the child or young person takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve

### **Call 999 or a doctor urgently if:**

- the child or young person's symptoms do not improve in 5–10 minutes
- the child or young person is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- the child or young person's lips are blue
- you are in doubt.

Ensure the child takes one puff of their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance or doctor arrives.

### **After a minor asthma attack**

- Minor attacks should not interrupt the involvement of a pupil with asthma in school. When the pupil feels better they can return to school activities.
- The parents/carers must always be told if their child has had an asthma attack.

### **Important things to remember in an asthma attack**

- Never leave a pupil having an asthma attack.
- If the pupil does not have their inhaler and/or spacer with them, send another teacher or pupil to their classroom or assigned room to get their inhaler and/or spacer.
- In an emergency situation school staff are required under common law, duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent.
- Reliever medicine is very safe. During an asthma attack do not worry about a pupil overdosing.
- Send another pupil to get another teacher/adult if an ambulance needs to be called.
- Contact the pupil's parents or carers immediately after calling the ambulance/doctor.
- A member of staff should always accompany a pupil taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until their parent or carer arrives.
- Generally staff should not take pupils to hospital in their own car. However, in some situations it may be the best course of action.
- Another adult should always accompany anyone driving a pupil having an asthma attack to emergency services.

## **Asthma UK**