Combs Ford Primary School

Asthma Policy

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How to Recognise an Asthma Attack

The signs of an asthma attack are

- Persistent cough (when at rest).
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest).
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body).
- Nasal flaring.
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- May try to tell you that their chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as a tummy ache).

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD:

- Appears exhausted.
- Has a blue or white tinge around lips.
- Is going blue.
- Has collapsed.

What to Do in the Event of an Asthma Attack

- Keep calm and reassure the child.
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Use the child's own inhaler. If not available, use the emergency inhaler.
- Ring 999 if you do not have permission to administer the inhaler.
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.
- Immediately help the child take two puffs of salbutamol via the spacer.
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. They can return to school activities when they feel better.
- **If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANY TIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE.**
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes, give another 10 puffs in the same way.

Useful Links

How to administer and inhaler: https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/inhalers-medicines-treatments/using-inhalers/

Training: https://www.educationforhealth.org/course/supporting-children-and-young-peoples-health-improving-asthma-care-together/

1. Background

At Combs Ford Primary, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children at the school. The school positively welcomes all children with asthma and encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and children. Supply staff and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with information and guidance and paediatric first aid team members receive training on asthma.

2. Asthma Medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential.

- The reliever inhalers of children are stored in the medical cupboard located in the office.
- All inhalers MUST be labelled with the child's name.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to children except in an emergency, however named staff (including all first aiders) are able to do this.
- All staff will let children take their own medicines when they need to.
- If a child is on a trip or off premises, their own asthma pump will be taken as part of the First Aid kit so that they have access to it if and when needed.
- Once a child's asthma pump has been administered, their families will receive a text message from school and the child will be given a blue wristband so all staff are aware.

3. Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, families are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form.

- All families of children with asthma are consequently sent a medical consent form.
- If a child has severe and/or complex needs, families are asked to complete and Individual Health Care Plan and return it to the school office.
- Using the above information, the school maintains a register of medical needs, which includes details of children diagnosed with asthma.
- The forms are then sent to families of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Families are also asked to update or exchange the form for a new one if the child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.

4. Exercise and Activity – PE and Games

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

5. After School Sports Clubs

PE teachers, classroom teachers and sports coaches are aware of the potential triggers for children with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All sports coaches are given a register for their club, which advises of any medical needs within the group, they are also made aware of where to locate a child's medicine.

6. School Environment

The school does all it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma.

- We have a definitive no-smoking and no-vaping policy on school grounds.
- As far as possible, the school does not use chemicals in lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma.
- If a child's asthma is triggered and they are able to go to the office, they will be sent for their asthma pump. If this appears more serious, a radio call will be made for the asthma pump to be brought to the child.

7. Making the School Asthma-Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma through information displayed on posters around the school.

8. Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

Posters on how to deal with an asthma attack can be found around the school.

9. Spare Emergency Inhalers

- Spare inhalers with spacers are kept in the School Office inside the medical cupboard in case a child or member of staff requires an inhaler but does not have their own with them.
- Emergency inhalers are clearly labelled to avoid confusion with a child's inhaler.
- A spare inhaler is to be taken on activities that take place off site as part of the First Aid kit.
- Mrs McCarthy is responsible for checking on a monthly basis that the emergency inhalers and spacers are present and in working order. She will ensure that replacement inhalers are obtained when the expiry dates approach.

10. Family Responsibilities

The families of children with asthma are responsible for:

- Informing the school if their child has Asthma.
- Ensuring the school has a complete and up-to-date Asthma plan for their child.

- Informing the school of medicines required for their child during school hours.
- Informing the school of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits and any out of school events.
- Informing the school of any changes in their child's condition.
- Ensuring that their child's medicines and medical devices are labelled with their full name.
- Ensuring that their child's medicines are within their expiry dates. All medicine is sent home at the end of the school year. The School Office will notify you if medicine is out of date or needs replacing.
- Ensuring that their child has regular reviews (usually every three months) with their doctor or specialist healthcare professional.
- Ensuring new and in date medicines come into school on the first day of the new Academic Year.