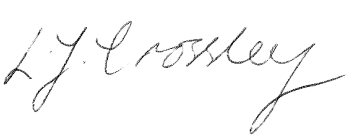
Woodbridge Primary School
Asthma Policy

Signed:

Matthew Gowen
Chair of Governors

Signed: 

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Interim Co-Headteachers

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Asthma Policy

The principles of our school Asthma Policy

- The school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including P.E
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment if favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents', governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and Employment, National Asthma Campaign, the local education authority, the school health service, parents, the governing body and pupils

1. This school recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.
2. This school 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, their employers (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. Teachers and Support Staff are provided with asthma training on a regular basis. The School Business Manager keeps a training record of school staff trained in this area and lists are displayed throughout the school. The training is provided by the School Nursing Service and also covers severe allergic reaction and epilepsy.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Relievers for each child are kept in a named, clear, zip wallet in their classroom with easy access for each child. The expiry date of the inhaler will also be written on the zip wallet. A child's inhaler must be clearly labelled with their name. Children should always tell their class teacher or first aider when they have had occasion to use their inhaler. Every use of an inhaler must be entered on the child's record of administration of medication which is kept in their individual zip wallet. Parents will be informed of any increased frequency of use of an inhaler. A copy of the record of administration of medication will be given to parents who can then share it with health professionals.

Whilst school staff are not required to administer asthma medication to children except in an emergency they can support younger children with the administration of their inhaler. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff will let children take their inhaler when needed.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a School Asthma Card (Asthma UK) and return it to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is displayed in the staff

room, office and MDSA cupboard. If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school.

Woodbridge Primary holds an emergency inhaler and spacer as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015. This medication can only be administered to children on the Asthma Register.

Parents of children with asthma are sent an asthma card which includes permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own child's inhaler is not available. (See Appendix 1 attached). Parents will be informed by letter if their child has used the emergency inhaler (Appendix 2).

Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by their class teacher or teaching assistant. Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom in a named plastic zip wallet containing their school asthma card and asthma plan. The class teacher will make sure that each child knows where their inhaler is kept and that they have easy access to it at all times should they need it. In the event of fire a member of the office staff will be responsible for bringing out the emergency inhaler kept in the emergency medication box kept in the office.

All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible asthma attack for each individual child (allergies, colds, coughs, cold weather). All this information is found in their asthma plan which will be kept in their individual zip wallet.

P.E

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in P.E. Teachers will take the children's named zip wallets, with their inhalers into every P.E lesson. The location of their inhaler will be made clear to each child who will be instructed to inform the teacher if they feel they need to use it. If it is on the child's asthma plan that their asthma is triggered by exercise and they need to take it before the lesson the teacher or support staff will remind them to do so before the session begins. A record is kept every time a child uses their inhaler. Whilst it would be preferable for two members of staff to sign the administration form this may not be possible during PE lessons.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or P.E lesson, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times. One of the school inhalers and spacers should be taken by the teacher on any school trip.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a no smoking policy. Teachers will be aware of any child who has an allergy that could trigger their asthma. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children would be encouraged to leave the room and go and sit somewhere out of the area if they felt a particular fume might trigger their asthma. They would be monitored and checked and if required assisted to take their inhaler.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

Asthma Policy

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 with targeted assemblies, in science and P.E of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

When a Child is falling behind in lessons

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nursing team and SENDCo about the situation.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

1. **Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.**
2. **Stay calm and reassure the child.**
3. **Help the child to breathe by sitting upright, opening windows and loosening any tight clothing.**

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The dose and type of inhaler that the child had should be recorded on the medicine administration sheet kept in the child's individual zip wallet. The child's parents should be informed about any asthma attack that caused concern.

Emergency Procedure

If the pupil does not feel better or if you are worried **at any time** before reaching 10 puffs from the inhaler, call **999 for an ambulance.**

Until the ambulance arrives follow instructions for treatment from the emergency operator.

Call the pupils parents or carers immediately.

In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they should always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer is present. Taking the child's medication zip wallet.

LINKS AND OTHER POLICIES This policy links to the following policies:

- Accessibility plan
- Asthma Policy
- Complaints
- Equalities Policy
- Safeguarding
- Supporting Pupils With Medical Needs
- www.asthma.org.uk
- https://suffolklearning.com/safety-health-wellbeing/asthma-management-in-education-settings/