



CHAPEL ALLERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

ASTHMA POLICY

Date written: July 2024

Date reviewed: September 2025

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 full potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers (the local education authority), parents and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse who has had asthma training. Training is updated for new staff once a year.

3. Medication

It is a parent's responsibility to ensure school is aware and kept up to date with all appropriate medical details. It is a parent's responsibility to ensure school has an inhaler that is in date and has sufficient quantity.

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Inhalers are kept in the classroom in medical bags, in the stock cupboard. Parents are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a spacer. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency. However some of our staff are happy to do this. This includes the named first aiders. **All school staff will let children take their own asthma reliever medication when they need to.**

4. Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. All parents of children with asthma are given a National Asthma Campaign school card to complete and return to the school. From this information the school keeps its asthma register which is available for all school staff. Cards are then sent to parents on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents are asked to inform the school.

5. PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. PE teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints over five minutes before the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so. For PE lessons taking place off site inhalers will be taken to the site by the individual pupils or a member of staff.

6. Educational visits and education off site

An adult will ensure all children requiring inhalers are taken on school trips in medical bags.

7. 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 non-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the partner class if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

8. Making the school asthma friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in key stages 1 and 2 in science, design technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum (for more details see Section 7). Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the website www.asthma.org.uk.

9. 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 nurse and special educational needs co-ordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

10. 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 ensuring tight clothing is loosened**
- 4. Refer to named first aider**

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 child's parents must be told about the attack.

Emergency procedure

Call the child's parent urgently from the secretary's office using the asthma register to find out the number of the child's GP if:

- The reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted

- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition
- Call an ambulance