



The Oldershaw School



Statement on Supporting Pupils with Asthma & Prescribed Inhalers

Introduction

The Oldershaw School considers the health and wellbeing of the pupils in our care to be our utmost priority. We recognise that asthma is a condition that affects a significant number of our pupils and therefore this statement has been developed to outline the School's position in supporting children with asthma and other salbutamol-dependent respiratory conditions to safely manage their medical needs independently.

Where relevant, it should be considered in conjunction with the School's Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy.

Asthma as a Chronic Condition

Asthma is the most common chronic condition, affecting one in eleven children. On average, there are two children with asthma in every classroom in the UK. There are over 25,000 emergency hospital admissions amongst children a year in the UK.

Children should have their own reliever inhaler at school to treat symptoms and for use in event of an asthma attack. However, an Asthma UK survey found that 86% of children with asthma have at some time been without an inhaler at school having forgotten, lost or broken it, or the inhaler having run out.

Independent Management of Inhalers

Previously, the School has been able to hold 'spare' inhalers but unfortunately, the health climate no longer affords this option; availability issues and the risk of COVID19 transmission prevents the School holding 'spare' inhalers and spacers or, in the event of an emergency and the absence of their own inhaler, a pupil using another child's inhaler.

Therefore, the School now expects that any child diagnosed with asthma or requiring the use of an inhaler has a **working, in-date inhaler present in school, clearly labelled with their name, every day.**

Due to the size of the School site and pupils moving between multiple buildings, the School requests that the inhaler is carried by the child in their own school bag. This allows the child to respond promptly to their own health needs by using their inhaler immediately when required.

If you feel that your child is unable to take responsibility for carrying their own inhaler or they have severe asthma that is difficult to control, please request an appointment to discuss this with Mrs Stanley, Vice Principal – Inclusion (SEND, CLA & Safeguarding).