



Shrewton
C of E Primary School



Whitesheet
CE Primary Academy

Asthma Policy

2022

Written October 2022
Review: October 2025

Vision

Shrewton CE Primary School and Whitesheet CE Primary Academy:

- Recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma.
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE.
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital.
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take.
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with 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.

Shrewton CE Primary School/Whitesheet CE Primary Academy Asthma Policy

This policy has been written with advice from the National Asthma Campaign, the school health service, parents and the governing body.

Shrewton and Whitesheet recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and positively welcomes all pupils with asthma.

Shrewton and Whitesheet 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. The Asthma Policy forms part of the Staff Induction Pack and supply teachers are supported by the class teaching assistant(s) who are aware of school policy. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse. Training is updated once a year.

Medication

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Pupils' reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom in blue labelled wallets. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however many of our staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the Department for Education when acting in accordance with this policy. An inhaler is available in school for emergency use if a child's inhaler is not available or is unusable. Parents must give their consent to receive salbutamol from the emergency inhaler. **All school staff will let children take their own inhaler medication when they need to.**

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked if their child has asthma. From this information the school's management information system is updated and a list of pupils with medical conditions is kept in class and in the first aid bags. If there are any changes to prescribed medication, parents are asked to inform the school and to update their child's asthma record.

Each class keeps a record of inhaler use, and parents/carers are informed if when inhalers are used contrary to the norm.

This will be monitored biannually through the Health and Safety Committee.

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. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a no-smoking on site 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 to sit in a supervised area if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

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 coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

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**

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities.

We will ensure that the child's parent/carer is informed of the attack.

Emergency Procedure

A member of staff will call an ambulance 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
- we have any doubts at all about the child's condition

ASTHMA

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)

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 persons symptoms do not improve in 5-10 minutes
- The child or the young person is too breathless to talk
- The child or young persons 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.

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

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.