



Asthma Policy

OVERVIEW

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

Rack House Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils in school. Rack House Primary School positively welcomes any child with asthma. We encourage pupils 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 and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are made aware of the policy. All members of staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse. Training is updated annually.

Asthma Medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough and this will be noted on the class Medical list. The reliever of younger children is kept ***in the teacher's stock room out of reach of the children.***
- Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler. The class teacher will hold this separately in case the pupils own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.
- Asthma inhalers and spacers will be kept together in a labelled ziplock wallet with an additional copy of the child's Asthma plan
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), ***however many of the staff in this school are happy oversee this.*** All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

Record Keeping

- At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parent/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma Health Care Plan to complete (Appendix 1) along with a letter requesting consent for their child to use the school's emergency salbutamol inhaler if ever needed (Appendix 2). Parents/carers are asked to return these to school. From this information the school updates its medical needs record which is available to all school staff.

- Parents/carers of children with asthma are required on an annual basis to update or complete a new Asthma Care Plan if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.
- School staff are required to record when asthma inhalers are used in school using the 'Record of Medication Administered in School' form (Appendix 3) and inform parents of this using the 'Record of Medication Administered in School' take home slip (Appendix 4)

Exercise and activity

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be encouraged to do so.
- All children who have asthma will be required to take their inhaler with them on any off site activities e.g. school trip, swimming lesson. For younger children the teacher in charge will ensure the inhalers are taken along.

Asthma attacks

- All members of staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- In the event of an attack the school follows the guidelines provided by the School Health Service. (Appendix 5).
- Common triggers for asthma attacks are: colds and flu, exercise, cigarette smoke, pollen, house-dust mite, fur and feathers, pollution, emotions such as stress and some chemical fumes.
- **The procedure for dealing with an asthma attack is visibly displayed in the staffroom and every classroom**

School Staff will:

- Understand the school asthma policy
- Know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma
- Know what to do in an asthma attack allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever/inhaler
- Keep a record of when asthma inhalers are used in school and inform parents of this use
- Ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of classroom
- Keep an eye out for pupils with asthma experiencing bullying
- Liaise with parents/carers, the school nurse and inclusion leader if a child is falling behind with their work because of asthma.

This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Adopted by the Governing Body on September 2014