



KEA SCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY

Approved by: Governing Body **Date:** 29.06.2020

Last reviewed on: June 2020

Next review due by: June 2021

Signed:

This policy is written with guidance from the Department for Health and deals specifically with the responsibilities of Kea C P School with asthma.

What is Asthma?

Asthma is the most common chronic condition, affecting one in eleven children. Children should have their own reliever inhaler at school to treat symptoms and for use in the event of an asthma attack. If they are able to manage their asthma themselves they should keep their inhaler on them, and if not, it should be easily accessible to them.

Signs and Symptoms:

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)
- Nasal flaring
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- Chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as tummy ache)

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD:

- Appears exhausted
- Has a blue/white tinge around lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- Keep calm and reassure the child
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler.
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.
- Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of salbutamol via the spacer.
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better.
- If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANY TIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE.
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way.

Kea School has emergency Salbutamol inhalers to use in the event of an emergency, for children who have been diagnosed with asthma and has a prescribed inhaler or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. They will only be used by children, for whom written parental consent has been received.

A child may be prescribed an inhaler for their asthma which contains an alternative reliever medication to salbutamol (such as terbutaline) The salbutamol inhaler should still be used by these children if their own inhaler is not accessible - it will still help to relieve their asthma.

The Emergency Kit

The emergency asthma inhaler kit includes:

- a Salbutamol metered dose inhaler
- at least two plastic spacers compatible with the inhaler

- instructions on using the inhaler and spacer
- instructions on cleaning and storing the inhaler
- manufacturer's information
- a checklist of inhalers, identified by their batch number and expiry date, with monthly checks recorded
- a note of the arrangements for replacing the inhaler and spacers

The school has two emergency kits on site, one in the school office (in the first aid cabinet) and a second in the Victorian Building on the wall above the telephone (in the first aid cabinet).

The school has a register of children with Asthma, a copy is kept with both emergency kits. Parents have completed the asthma consent form. Training for staff will be given to support them in administering the emergency inhaler. Parents/carers are notified by letter and telephoned if their child has used the emergency inhaler. Two members of staff Hannah Edyvean and Sara Evans have been, on behalf of the Headteacher, delegated the responsibility for ensuring this protocol is followed. Hannah Edyvean and Sara Evans are responsible for checking that the inhalers and spacers are in working order, in date and ready for use. They also arrange for the re-ordering of new stocks when necessary. They also ensure that out of date inhalers are returned to the pharmacy to be recycled and not thrown away.

Parents/carers are required to complete an annual asthma declaration form.



KEA C P SCHOOL

**ASTHMA CONSENT FORM
USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER**

Child showing symptoms of asthma / having asthma attack

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma and has been prescribed an inhaler.
2. My child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which they will bring with them to school every day.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, I consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Name of Parent (print): _____

Child's name: _____ Class: _____

Parent's address and contact details: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____



Kea Community Primary School

Dear Parent/Carer

Child's name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

This letter is to formally notify you that _____ has had problems with their breathing today. This happened during:

They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given _____ puffs.

Please ensure that your child brings their asthma inhaler to school with them.

Although your child soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have them seen by your own doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Katherine Hunkin

Katherine Hunkin
Headteacher