



Repton Manor Primary School

Asthma Policy April 2023

Policy lead	Karen Paterson
Date approved by Governing Body	
Governor signature	
Review date	April 2025

At Repton Manor Primary School we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children at the school. Our school positively welcomes all children 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 the school staff and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

Children can experience varying signs and symptoms of an Asthma attack, these may include:

- Persistent cough
- A Wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Being unusually quiet
- The child complains of shortness of breath at rest, feeling tight in the chest (younger children may describe this a tummy ache)
- Difficulty in breathing (fast and deep respiration)
- Nasal flaring
- Being unable to complete sentences
- Appearing exhausted.

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhalers as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. Within school, the reliever inhalers are kept in the classroom in a cupboard with easy access. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and in its original box. It is the parent/carers responsibility to ensure that their child has a pump in school.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let children take their own medicines when they need to and as agreed with parents in their health care plan.

In an emergency situation (unexpected asthma attack), school staff are required to act as any reasonable prudent person would. This may include administering medication:

- keep calm – do not panic
- send for a qualified first aider – do not move the child
- make sure that specific directions of the reliever inhaler are followed
- loosen clothing
- reassure the pupil

If no immediate improvement during an attack, continue to follow directions of the reliever inhaler until symptoms improve.

CALL 999 if:

- symptoms do not improve in 5-10 minutes
- the child is too breathless to talk

- the child's lips turn blue
- or if you are in doubt

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. Our parent communications and information app, Arbor, can be updated with real time updates, so if a medical diagnosis has been sought and agreed by a doctor a parent / carer should ensure they update the school and their child's Arbor account.

All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently asked to fill in an 'Asthma UK School Asthma Card'. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff. School asthma forms are then sent to parent/carers on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update Arbor and to exchange their child's old form for a new one, if their children's medicines or how it is administered changes in any way. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that changes are updated.

Taking part in sports, games, trips and other physical activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register. All off site activity must include the child's asthma kit.

Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Their reliever inhaler will be taken with them to the room/area where the physical activity will take place and encouraged to use it if necessary.

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a definitive no smoking policy. The school limits the use of any chemicals or aerosols. If at any time a particular fume is causing a child with asthma discomfort, then they will be allowed to leave the room until the air clears.

If a child is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs in addition to their asthma.

The person responsible for updating the asthma register is Karen Paterson (Office Manager).