

Asthma Policy

ISP School Battle



Approved by: Local Governing Body **Date:** September 2024

Last reviewed September 2024
on:

Next review due September 2025
by:

At ISP School, Battle we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children. Our school positively welcomes all children with asthma. We encourage children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by the school adults and children. Supply teachers (if we were to use them), sports coaches (and other extra-curricular providers, as appropriate), and new adults are also made aware of the policy.

Children can experience varying signs and symptoms of an asthma attack which 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 (which younger children may describe as 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. Children with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhalers as soon as the parent/foster parent, doctor or asthma nurse, and class teacher agree they are mature enough. Within our school, the reliever inhalers are kept in the first aid cabinet with easy access for all. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and in its original box. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their child has a pump in school. Use of asthma inhalers is recorded via the medical section on Behaviour Watch. Parents are informed when their child has used their inhaler in school by a telephone call home and recorded on our phone log.

The Governing Body are considering whether to hold asthma inhalers on site for emergency use. These are held in the first aid cabinet. Written parental consent must be in place for these to be used by pupils. Emergency school inhalers will be administered by school adults trained in medicine administration. Their use will be

recorded and parents will be informed.

[Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61222/guidance-on-the-use-of-emergency-salbutamol-inhalers-in-schools.pdf)

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 adults who agree to administer medicines are insured by our organization when acting in agreement with this policy. All school adults will support children to take their own medicines independently when they need to, and as agreed with parents in their Individual Healthcare Plan (if required).

In an emergency (unexpected asthma attack), school adults are required to act as any reasonable prudent person would. This may include administering emergency medicine. Staff will:

- Keep calm-do not panic
- Send for a qualified first aider-do not move the child
- Make sure that the specific directions of the reliever inhaler are followed
- Loosen clothing
- Reassure the pupil.

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

CALL 999 if:

- The pupil's lips turn blue
- If you are in any doubt about the child's condition.

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. If a medical diagnosis has been sought and agreed by a doctor, a parent/foster parent should ensure they update the school and their child's Arbor account.

At our school every child with asthma has an Individual Healthcare Plan.

Parents/foster parents are asked to complete these with appropriate school adults. From this information, the school keeps a log of children with asthma on Behaviour Watch and within the first aid cabinet. This is available for all adults to see. Parents/foster parents are asked to update this information annually or as required. It is the responsibility of the parent/foster parent to ensure that any changes to their child's asthma medication or administration of this are updated.

Taking part in sports, games, trips, and other physical activities is an essential part of school life for all children. All school adults know which children in the school have asthma. Any off-site activity must include the child's asthma kit.

Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all physical activities. School adults will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise when they need to take their reliever inhaler; this might be before the active session. Their reliever inhaler will be taken with them to the room/area where the physical activity will take place and they will be able to use it if necessary.

The school does all that it can to ensure that 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, 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 nearly always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, a school adult will initially talk to the parent/foster parent to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. Our school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs in addition to their asthma. Our school is aware that there may be safeguarding concerns if a child's asthma medication is out of date or unavailable.

The person responsible for updating the asthma section on Behaviour Watch and checking the expiration dates of childrens' asthma medication is Candy Gilbert, SENDCo.

