****

**Snarestone Church of England**

**(Aided) Primary School**

**ASTHMA POLICY**

Date of Review: July 2019

Date of Next Review: April 2020

Signed: Tim Jewitt, Headteacher 

In line with LA Medication & Management Procedures appendix 7 - Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools

**Asthma Policy**

*“Participate, Excel, Take Pride!”*

**Rationale**

We recognise that asthma is a serious condition that affects many children. At Snarestone Church of England (Aided) Primary School we will welcome all children who suffer from asthma and we will ensure that they are able to participate fully in all areas of school life.

**Policy Development**

This policy was developed in consultation with the Headteacher, staff, parents and health professionals.

**Purpose and Aims**

The aim of this policy is to ensure that staff, parents, governors, visitors and pupils understand about asthma and how to treat it.

In order to make our school asthma friendly we have adopted a non-smoking policy anywhere on the school grounds to ensure that pupils are never exposed to the dangers of passive smoking. Chemicals, cleaning materials and paint sprays are not to be used whilst pupils are present. Avoiding these in the school environment can lessen the incidence of asthma attacks.

It is essential that we understand how to deal with medication and inhalers effectively. There are two types of treatment both of which come in an inhaler.

**RELIEVERS** - which help the child's breathing difficulties, these are generally in blue containers. A child diagnosed with Asthma must have access to this medication at all times.

**PREVENTORS** - which make airways less sensitive, these generally come in brown/white containers and are usually taken on a regular basis and will normally be kept at home.

# Administering Treatment

The responsibility of ensuring that a child has their inhaler in school is clearly that of their parents/carers.

Children with asthma should have easy access to their inhalers at all times should they need them for any reason. Those children with prescribed inhalers will be encouraged to become responsible for managing their own asthma treatment during their time at Snarestone School.

**SWANS AND SWALLOWS CLASS:** Inhalers to be kept in an easily recognisable container available at all times. Pupils will administer their own treatment in the presence of an adult member of staff. Support will be given for those children who need it to ensure medication is appropriately taken. Inhalers are clearly named.

**HERONS AND KINGFISHERS CLASSES:** Inhalers are kept in their own class individual drawer and are available to the child at all times. Pupils can be expected to administer their own medication and to inform their class teacher or other adult if they have used their inhaler at any time during the school day. They will be reminded to take them with them when on off-site visits and during any ‘outdoor’ activity they participate in at school.

Parents of children diagnosed as being asthmatic will be asked to ensure that an additional in-date inhaler, labelled with the child’s name, is given to the class teacher. This will be kept in the classroom during lessons. It will be taken on any educational trips, visits, swimming lessons or other areas of the school such as the gym or school field.

Children will be encouraged to handle their asthma medication sensibly by keeping the mouthpiece clean, avoid unnecessary use and ensure that spent inhalers are disposed of safely and replaced immediately.

**Equal Opportunities**

Full participation in all areas of the school curriculum, including physical education, should be the aim for all.

Children with exercise-induced asthma should take a puff of their inhaler before they start exercise. They should bring inhalers to the hall, swimming pool and Sports Fields. Children who say they are too wheezy to continue should take their reliever inhaler and rest until they feel better.

Teachers are aware that some children are shy in public when taking their inhalers.

As part of the ‘Citizenship’ aspect of the curriculum the staff of Snarestone School will ensure that other children understand asthma so that they can support their friends.

**Definition of Asthma**

Asthma is sometimes described as wheezy bronchitis. It causes the airways in the lung to narrow making breathing difficult. Children with asthma have inflamed airways which react to certain triggers (irritants) e.g.viral infections, allergies, exercise, cold weather, temperature changes, excitement, laughter, glue, paint and tobacco smoke.

**Specific Issues**

We will ensure that all staff have a clear understanding of what to do if a child has an asthma attack. We will work in partnership with parents, governors, health professionals, school staff and children to ensure the successful implementation of the school asthma policy. All staff will take part in regular asthma training.

**Parents of children diagnosed with Asthma will be requested to complete the enclosed letter as soon as they start/alert school that their child has asthma and ensure that there is an inhaler available to be kept in class at all times as outlined above.** **Parents and carers will also sign a parental consent form - use of emergency salbutamol inhaler in school.**

These children are also held on a register of medical needs in school and each class has a copy in the staff hand book. Supply teachers/volunteers are also made aware of which children suffer from asthma.

**What to do if a child suffers an asthma attack**

An asthma attack can cause severe distress to the child and be a frightening experience when first observed. Action needed to deal with an asthma attack does not require specific medical training, and the following guidelines may be helpful *(more guidance information is held in the First Aid Green Folder – Guidance on the use of emergency inhalers in schools)*:

 • ensure that the reliever medicine is taken.

 • stay calm and reassure the child.

 • encourage the child to breathe slowly and deeply.

 • send for assistance if necessary.

 • contact the parents immediately.

 • call an ambulance urgently if: the reliever has no effect after 5 – 10

 minutes, the child is either distressed or unable to talk, the child

 becomes exhausted, or if there are any doubts about the child's

 condition.

**Each academic year, parents and carers will be routinely asked to identify if their child has asthma using the proforma below. Parents and carers will also sign a parental consent form - use of emergency salbutamol inhaler in school.**

***This is within the guidelines of LA policy and procedure with reference to Medication & Management Procedures Policy September 2018 – Appendix 7 Emergency Inhalers in School.***

All children with asthma should regularly attend an asthma clinic at their local surgery to have their condition re-assessed and treatment changed if necessary.

******DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE ASTHMA?**

Asthma is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition affecting many children in schools today. It is very important that all children with asthma have their (blue) bronchodilator inhaler with them in school at all times, so that in the event of an attack it can be quickly used.

Their anti-inflammatory (brown) inhaler should be kept at home (unless we are advised otherwise).

**It is essential that we are aware if your child has been diagnosed with asthma.**

**Please complete and return this form to school so that we can update our records and continue to provide the best possible care for your child.**

**My child …………………………………….…………………………… has been diagnosed with asthma.**

**Your contact telephone number: ………………………………………………………**

**Your GP contact telephone number: ………………………………………………………**

**INDIVIDUAL HEALTH PLAN**

**The trigger for the asthma is …………………………….………………………………………………………………**

**…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………**

**The treatment for the asthma is …………………………………….…………………………………………………**

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**Signed:** **………………………………… Print Name: …………………………………… Date: ………………**

* Please provide an inhaler for your child to keep in school, clearly named and with clear instructions for staff. It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure inhalers are kept in date and refilled.
* Please check inhalers are not out of date or empty before sending them into school.
* If you are unsure of any of the above, please contact your GP as a matter of urgency so we can ensure your child can be given the appropriate treatment if needed.
* Please sign the Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Consent form attached.

**PARENTAL CONSENT FORM**

***In line with Snarestone C of E (A) Primary School Asthma Policy September 2019 (Medication & Management Procedures Appendix 7)***

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**PARENTAL/CARER CONSENT FORM**

**USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER**

**Snarestone C of E (A) Primary School**

**Child showing symptoms of asthma / having asthma attack**

**1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma / has been prescribed an inhaler** *[delete as appropriate]***.**

**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 (print)……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………**

**Child’s name: ………………………………………….………… Class: ………………………………….…………**

**Parent’s address and contact details: ………………………………..…………………………………………..**

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Telephone: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..**

***In line with Snarestone C of E (A) Primary School Asthma Policy September 2019 (Medication & Management Procedures Appendix 7)***

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**LETTER TO INFORM PARENTS OF**

**EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE AT SCHOOL**

**Child’s name: ……………………………………………………………….Class: …..………………………………….…**

**Date: ………………………………………**

**Dear……………………………………………. [*Delete as appropriate*]**

**This letter is to formally notify you that…………………………….has had problems with his / her breathing today. This happened when ………………………….……………………………..………………….**

**A member of staff supervised them to use their asthma inhaler.**

**They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff supervised them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They took ….…… puffs.**

**Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff supervised them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They took …..…… puffs.**

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

**Yours sincerely**

**Tim Jewitt**

**Headteacher**

**Snarestone C of E (A) Primary School**

***In line with Snarestone C of E (A) Primary School Asthma Policy September 2019 (Medication & Management Procedures Appendix 7)***