



# **DURANTS SCHOOL – POLICY DOCUMENT**

## **Asthma**

**January 2020**

*Reviewed & updated: January 2020 (Karly Barker)*

*Next review date: January 2023*

## **DURANTS SCHOOL – Asthma Policy**

The policy takes account of advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, and has been developed in consultation with the local authority, local healthcare professionals and the school health service

### **Principles**

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities
- Recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take which is on the main data base and individual care plans.
- Ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to pupils with asthma
- Ensures that all pupils understand asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including agency staff and visitors) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, employers of school staff, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

### **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. The reliever inhalers of most pupils at Durants will be kept in an appropriate, agreed place in the classroom.

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 pupil's own inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer.

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however, school staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to, this will always be carried out under supervision.

### **Record keeping**

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma so that this information can be logged by the school. Parents/carers are asked to inform the school of any changes as necessary. This information will be also be included in a detailed individual medical care plan with a record sheet that **MUST** be filled in each time a pupil takes the inhaler.

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### **Exercise and activity – PE and games**

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers will know which pupils in their class have asthma and the PE teacher at the school will be aware of which pupils have asthma. Pupils with asthma will be encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. The PE teacher 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. It is agreed with PE staff that each pupil's inhaler will be labeled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so. Support staff will monitor the particular pupil/s throughout the lesson.

Classroom teachers will follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons.

### **Out-of-hours sport**

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs.

PE teachers, classroom teachers and out-of hours school sport coaches will be aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All staff and sports coaches will be provided with appropriate training and relevant care plan information.

### **School environment**

The school will do all that it can to ensure that all pupils have an understanding of asthma and that the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room with a member of staff if particular fumes trigger their asthma or if possible not used at all around that particular pupil/class.

### **Asthma attacks**

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma will know what to do in the event of an asthma attack as comprehensive first aid training is given to at least 2 members of staff per class and more where possible.

This policy will be monitored and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.