



The Priory School, Hitchin

Supporting children with Asthma

Background

These guidelines have been written using advice from Asthma UK. This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition affecting many students at school. The school positively welcomes all students with asthma. This school encourages students with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff and students. Key staff that come into contact with students with asthma are provided with training on asthma.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Students with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler at all times. Emergency reliever inhalers are kept in the medical room. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler if their level of asthma is particularly severe and parents/carers deem this necessary, this will be kept in the medical room. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and be in date. School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to students (except in an emergency), however, many of the staff at this school are happy to do this in emergencies. 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 students take their own medicines when they need to.

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 on the Essential Details Form. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff on our Management Information System (MIS). Parents/carers are also asked to update the school admin team if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year.

Exercise and activity

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all. Students with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Students whose asthma is triggered by exercise should use their reliever inhaler before the lesson, take it with them and thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. If a student needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be able to do so.

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 students with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs. PE teachers, classroom teachers and out-of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for students with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to students with asthma. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for students with asthma.

When a student is falling behind in lessons

If a student is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the Form Tutor, or Attendance Officer 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 students with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma. Parents/carers should go back to their child's GP if this is the case for a revised asthma plan.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with students with asthma are aware of the procedure to follow and know who to call in the event of an asthma attack.