

## CAMBRIDGE HOUSE GRAMMAR SCHOOL


**ASTHMA POLICY**  
**UPDATED MARCH 2022**

Cambridge House Grammar School:

- Recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in aspects of school life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the school environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures a number of staff are first aid trained so within each department staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.

This school encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, governors and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

### **MEDICATION**

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children must carry their reliever inhaler as soon as the parent, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough to do so. Parents/Guardians are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler – this will be stored in the First Aid Room in case the child's own inhaler runs out or is lost or forgotten. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/guardian. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency. **All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.**

### **RECORD KEEPING**

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents/guardians should inform the school if their child has asthma. From the information provided the school keeps a record of asthma sufferers in the Summary Health Care Plan which is available for all school staff. Data sheets are sent to parents/guardians on an annual basis to update. If medication changes in between times, parents/guardians are asked to inform the school.

### **PE**

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. PE teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the Summary Health Care Plan. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and complete a warm up of a couple of short sprints over five minutes before the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson they will be permitted to do so.

### **WHEN A CHILD IS FALLING BEHIND IN LESSONS**

If a child is missing time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/guardians. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the

special educational needs co-ordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

### **ASTHMA ATTACKS**

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The school follows the following procedure:

1. Stay calm and reassure the child. Send for the nearest First Aid staff member
2. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened and getting them to sit up straight
3. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately. One puff every 30-60 secs up to a total of 10 puffs

### **AFTER THE ATTACK**

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The child's parents/guardians will be told about the attack.

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURE**

Call an ambulance immediately

- If the reliever has no effect after five to ten minutes and/or 10 puffs
- The child feels worse
- The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- The child is getting exhausted
- You have any doubts at all about the child's condition.
- If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes repeat step 1
- If symptoms have not improved after repeating step 1 contact 999 again
- Contact parents/guardians and ask them to meet the child at school as soon as possible or at the hospital whichever is closest

**If your symptoms improve and you do not need an ambulance, please contact your doctor or asthma nurse for an urgent same-day appointment.**

### **Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in school**

In 2015 the addendum to *Supporting Pupils with Medication Needs* notified schools that from 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 allows schools to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. The change in legislation allows an emergency salbutamol inhaler to be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler and spare inhaler are not available. There is no compulsory requirement for schools to hold an inhaler for emergency use however Cambridge House Grammar School believes this will broaden the choices open to school as part of the pupil's wider asthma management plan.

The protocol implemented by Cambridge House Grammar School includes the following --:

- Arrangements for the supply, storage, care, and disposal of the inhaler and spacers in line with the school's policy on supporting pupils with medication needs.
- Keeping a copy of the asthma register with the emergency inhaler.
- Having written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler included as part of a child's medication plan.
- Ensuring that the emergency inhaler is only used by children with asthma, who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler and who have written parental consent for its use.

- Appropriate support and training for staff in the use of the emergency inhaler in line with the school's wider policy on supporting pupils with medication needs.
- Keeping a record of use of the emergency inhaler and informing parents or carers that their child has used the emergency inhaler.

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/asthma-guidance-updated-june-2015.pdf>

<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/de/supporting-pupils-with-medical-needs.pdf>