MARLFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL
ASTHMA POLICY
2026

The Asthma Policy in respect of Marlfields Primary School has been discussed and adopted by the Local Advisory Board in Summer 2026

Chair of Board: *Mr G Provis*

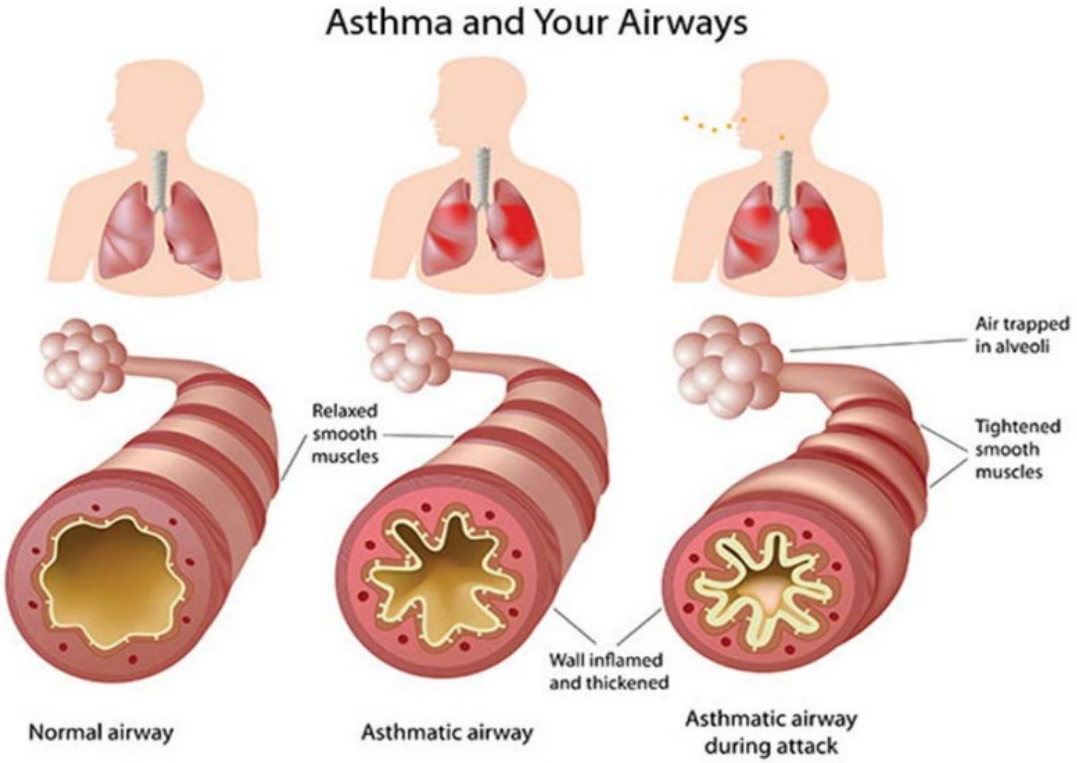
Responsible *Headteacher – Mrs C Sleath*

Agreed and ratified by the Local Advisory Board on: June 2026

To be reviewed: *June 2027*

Asthma

Asthma is a condition that affects small tubes (airways) that carry air in and out of the lungs. When
a person with asthma comes into contact with something that irritates their airways (an asthma
trigger), the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten so that the airways become narrower
and the lining of the airways becomes inflamed and starts to swell. Sometimes, sticky mucus or
phlegm builds up, which can further narrow the airways. These reactions make it difficult to breathe, leading to symptoms of asthma.



At Marlfields Primary School, we recognise that asthma is a common, controllable condition that can be serious if the child has poorly controlled asthma and/or is having an asthma attack. Our school welcomes all pupils with asthma and aims to support these children in participating fully in school life. We endeavour to do this by ensuring we have:

- an asthma register
- an up-to-date asthma policy
- an asthma champion
- all pupils with immediate access to their rescue inhaler at all times
- all pupils with an up-to-date asthma care plan
- an emergency salbutamol inhaler available
- ensured all staff have regular asthma training
- promoted asthma awareness to pupils, parents and staff

Common 'day to day' symptoms of asthma

At Marlfields Primary School we require that children with asthma have an asthma care plan completed by the child's parent. These plans inform us of the day-to-day symptoms of each child's asthma and how to respond to them individually. We will also send home our own information and consent form for every child with asthma each school year (see appendices 1 and 2). These need to be returned immediately and kept with our asthma register.

However, we also recognise that some of the most common day-to-day symptoms of asthma are:

- Wheeze (a 'whistle' usually heard on breathing out)
- Shortness of breath
- Tight chest
- Dry cough

These symptoms are usually responsive to the use of the child's rescue (usually blue) inhaler and rest (e.g., stopping exercise). As per the Department of Health document (link below), if the child uses the low dose rescue (usually blue) inhaler and responds, they would not usually be required to be sent home from school or to need urgent medical attention.

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf)

Asthma Register

At Marlfields Primary School we have an asthma register of children within the school, which we update each term. We do this by asking parents/carers if their child is diagnosed as having asthma **or** has been prescribed a rescue (usually blue) inhaler by a healthcare professional. All Children and Young People (CYP) prescribed a rescue inhaler within the last 12 months but without a formal diagnosis will be included on the register; so that the emergency inhaler and spacer can be made available to them with the consent of their parents/guardian.

When parents/carers have confirmed that their child has asthma **or** has been prescribed a rescue inhaler we ensure that the pupil has been added to the asthma register and has:

- an up-to-date copy of their asthma care plan completed by a parent/carer (Appendix 1).
- their rescue inhaler in school clearly labelled with their name and an age and ability appropriate spacer.
- permission from the parents/carers to use the emergency salbutamol rescue inhaler and spacer if they require it and their own inhaler is broken, out of date, empty or has been lost (Appendix 2).

This register will be displayed in the school office and staffroom alongside emergency procedure instructions (appendix and be available to all staff members including sports and after school club staff (see example register in appendix 3).

We also have a class asthma file, with a class register of the names of children with asthma (appendix 8), a copy of their care plan and permission to use the school inhaler signed by parents (appendix 1 and 2), a record of when they have used their personal/ school inhaler (appendix 9) and the count it out chart for their inhaler (appendix 5).

Asthma Champion

Marlfields Primary School's asthma champion is Mrs Morgan, one of our class teachers. It is the responsibility of the asthma champion to manage the asthma register, update the asthma policy, manage the emergency salbutamol inhalers as per the Department of Health Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf) and to ensure measures are in place so that children have immediate access to their inhalers.

The role of the asthma champion will also include ensuring that all school staff have received regular (annual) training on the management of asthma symptoms via the local NHS School Nursing Team.

Medication and Inhalers

All children with asthma should have immediate access to their rescue (usually blue) inhaler at all times. The rescue inhaler is a fast-acting medication that opens up the airways and makes it easier for the child to breathe.

Some children will also have a preventer inhaler, which is usually taken morning and night, as prescribed by the doctor/nurse. This medication needs to be taken regularly for maximum benefit. Children typically should not bring their preventer inhaler to school as it should be taken regularly as prescribed by their doctor/nurse at home. However, if the pupil is going on a residential trip, we are aware that they will need to take the inhaler (and other prescribed asthma medication) with them so they can continue taking their inhaler as prescribed.

Children are encouraged to carry their rescue inhaler as soon as they are responsible enough to do so. However, we will discuss this with each child's parent/carer and teacher.

Whilst we recognise that children may still need supervision in taking their inhaler, school staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils. However, many children have poor inhaler technique or are unable to take the inhaler by themselves and failure to receive their medication could end in hospitalisation or even death. Staff who have had asthma training and are happy to support children as they use their inhaler, can be essential for the well-being of the child. If we have any concerns over a child's ability to use their inhaler, we will advise parents/carers to arrange a review with their GP/nurse.

Asthma Care Plans

Asthma UK evidence shows that if someone with asthma uses a personal asthma care plan, they are four times less likely to be admitted to hospital due to their asthma. At Marlfields Primary School, we recognise that having to attend hospital can cause stress for a family. Therefore, we believe it is essential that all children with asthma have a personal asthma care plan to ensure asthma is managed effectively within school to prevent hospital

admissions. All asthma care plans are updated annually or upon any changes to the child's condition as advised by parents/carers.

Staff training

Marlfields Primary School have committed to ensuring that a minimum of 85% of all staff will receive asthma training, including lunchtime supervisors and classroom support staff. This training will be provided by the Local NHS School Nursing Team.

It is the role of the asthma champion to maintain a record of all staff who have completed asthma training via the local NHS School Nursing Team and to schedule refresher training for all staff when it becomes due for renewal (annually).

School Environment

Marlfields Primary School does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definitive no-smoking policy. Pupil's asthma triggers will be recorded as part of their asthma care plans and the school will ensure that pupil's will not come into contact, where possible, with their triggers.

We are aware that triggers can include:

- Colds and infection
- Dust and house dust mite sensitivity
- Pollen, spores and moulds
- Feathers
- Furry animals
- Exercise, laughing, crying
- Stress
- Cold air, change in the weather
- Chemicals, glue, paint, aerosols, perfume
- Food allergies
- Fumes and cigarette/vape smoke
- Outdoor air pollution

As part of our responsibility to ensure all children are kept safe within the school grounds and on trips away, a risk assessment will be performed by staff. These risk assessments will establish asthma triggers which the children could be exposed to, and plans will be put in place to ensure, where possible, these triggers are avoided.

Exercise and activity

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All staff will know which children in their class have asthma and all PE teachers at the school will be aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all activities. Teaching staff will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their rescue inhaler via a spacer before the lesson if this is part of their asthma care plan, and to thoroughly warm up and

cool down before and after the lesson. It is agreed with staff that pupils who are mature enough will carry their inhaler with them and those that are too young will have their inhaler labelled 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.

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 and outside of school. The same rules apply for out of hours sport as during school hours PE lessons.

School Trips/Residential Visits

No child will be denied the opportunity to take part in school trips/residential visits because of asthma, unless so advised by their GP or consultant. The child's rescue inhaler will be readily available to them throughout the trip, being carried either by the child themselves or by the supervising adult.

For residential visits, staff will be trained in the use of all the CYP regular treatments, as well as emergency management. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to provide written information about all asthma medication required by their child for the duration of the trip. Parents must be responsible for ensuring an adequate supply of medication is provided which is clearly labelled with the prescribed instruction. Group leaders will have appropriate contact numbers and a copy of each personal asthma care plan. A school spare rescue inhaler and spacer will be taken on the trip.

When asthma is affecting a pupil's education

At Marlfields Primary School we are aware that the aim of asthma medication is to allow people with asthma to live a normal life. Therefore, if we recognise that asthma is impacting on their life, and they are unable to take part in activities, tired during the day, or falling behind in lessons we will discuss this with parents/carers, and with consent the school nurse who may suggest they make an appointment with their asthma nurse/doctor. It may simply be that the pupil needs an asthma review, to review inhaler technique, medication review or an updated personal asthma care plan, to improve their symptoms. However, the school recognises that pupils with asthma could be classed as having a disability due to their asthma as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and therefore may have additional needs because of their asthma.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler in school

At Marlfields Primary School we are aware of the guidance 'The use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools from the Department of Health' (March 2015) (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf) which gives guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools. The emergency inhaler held by a school is

considered a back-up device and is not a replacement for a child or young person's own medication as prescribed by their GP.

As a school we are able to purchase salbutamol inhalers and spacers from community pharmacists without a prescription (see appendix 4).

All staff are aware that we have three emergency asthma kits, which are kept in the Main school office, staff meeting room and Lion Club, so they are easy to access. Posters are displayed in schools that list the locations these are stored.

Each kit contains:

- A salbutamol metered dose inhaler
- At least two spacers compatible with the inhaler
- Instructions on using the inhaler and spacer
- Instruction on cleaning and storing the inhaler
- Manufacturer's information
- A checklist of kit contents, inhalers to be identified by their batch number and expiry date, with monthly checks recorded
- Process for emergency/acute asthma attack
- Count it out document
- A list of children permitted to use the emergency inhaler (asthma register)
- A record of administration (ie when the inhaler has been used)
- Asthma Champion name and contact details

Emergency kits are also made available for any off-site activities/excursions and for before/after school clubs.

We understand that salbutamol is a relatively safe medicine, particularly if inhaled, but all medicines can have some adverse effects. Those of inhaled salbutamol are well known, tend to be mild and temporary and are not likely to cause serious harm. The child may feel a bit shaky or may tremble, or they may say that they feel their heart is beating faster.

We will ensure that the emergency salbutamol inhaler is only used by children who have asthma or who have been prescribed a rescue inhaler, and for whom written parental consent has been given.
The school's asthma champion and team will ensure that:

- On a half termly basis the inhaler and spacers are present and in working order, and the inhaler has sufficient number of doses available
- Replacement inhalers are obtained if expiry is within 3 months
- Replacement spacers are available following use
- The plastic inhaler housing (which holds the canister) has been cleaned, dried and returned to storage following use, or that replacements are available if necessary. Before using a salbutamol inhaler for the first time, or if it has not been used for 2 weeks or more, shake and release 2 puffs of medicine into the air
- A record of how many doses have been delivered has been made on the 'Count It Out' table as the inhaler only contains 200 metered doses of medication and will continue to spray propellant after that (Appendix 5)

The spacer cannot be reused without thorough cleaning. We will clean spacers following use. The inhaler can be reused, so long as it hasn't come into contact with any bodily fluids. Following use, the inhaler canister will be removed, and the plastic inhaler housing, cap and spacer will be washed in warm running water and left to dry in air in a clean safe place. The inhaler canister will be returned to the housing when dry and the cap replaced.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler will only be used by children:

- Who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a rescue inhaler

OR

- who have been prescribed a rescue inhaler

AND

- For whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given

The name(s) of these children will be clearly written in our emergency kit(s). The parents/carers will always be informed in writing if their child has used the emergency inhaler, so that this information can also be passed onto the GP (appendix 7).

Asthma Attacks

Marlfields Primary School recognises that if all of the above is in place, we should be able to support pupils with their asthma and hopefully prevent them from having an asthma attack. However, we are prepared to deal with asthma attacks should they occur.

All staff will receive an asthma update annually, and as part of this training, they are taught how to recognise an asthma attack and how to manage an asthma attack. In addition, guidance will be displayed in the staff room (see appendix 6).

The Department of Health Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools (March 2015) states the signs of an asthma attack are:

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)
- Nasal flaring
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet
- May try to tell you that their chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as tummy ache)

If the child is showing these symptoms, we will follow the guidance for responding to an asthma attack recorded below. However, we also recognise that we need to call an ambulance immediately and commence the asthma attack procedure without delay if the child:

*Appears exhausted *is going blue
*Has a blue/white tinge around lips *has collapsed

In the event of an asthma attack you should:

a. Keep calm and reassure your child
b. Encourage your child to sit up and slightly forward, loosen any tight clothing

If using a Pressurised Metered Dose Inhaler (pMDI):

1. Always use your child's inhaler with a spacer
2. Shake the rescue inhaler and insert the inhaler mouthpiece into the hole in the end of the spacer device
3. Put the mouthpiece of the spacer into your child's mouth and ask them to close their lips around to ensure a good seal or if using a mask place the mask securely over the nose and mouth (spacer with mask is only usually used for a child under 4 years)
4. Press the inhaler canister down to release 1 puff of medicine into the spacer and ask your child to breath in and out of the spacer 5 times
5. Remove from the child's mouth/face, wait 30-60 seconds then repeat from step 4 onwards and give another puff (total of 2 puffs now given)
6. If there is no improvement after 5 -10 minutes, give a further 2 puffs following steps 4-5 (total of 4 puffs now given)
7. If no improvement after 5-10 minutes give a further 2 puffs following steps 4-6 (total of 6 puffs now given)
8. Stay calm and reassure your child. If your child has responded allow to sit for 15-20 minutes while you observe them. Your child can return to normal activities when they feel better
9. If your child has not responded to 6 puffs stay calm, continue to give 1 puff every 30 to 60 seconds following steps 4-6 up to a total of another 10 puffs
10. If the child does not feel better or you are worried at **ANYTIME** call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE**
11. If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way and call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE** again

If using a Dry Powder Inhaler:

1. Load the dose in the inhaler according to the device instructions
2. Ask your child to breathe out completely, but not into the inhaler
3. Ask them to tilt their chin up slightly and place the inhaler mouthpiece into their mouth, ensuring a tight seal with their lips
4. Ask your child to breathe in quickly and deeply
5. Remove the inhaler from your child's mouth and ask them to hold their breath for 5-10 seconds to allow the medication to settle in their lungs
6. Repeat steps 1-5 (total of 2 puffs now given)
7. If there is no improvement after 5 minutes, give a further 1 puff/inhalation following steps 1-6 (total of 3 puffs now given)
8. If no improvement after 5 minutes give a further 1 puff/inhalation following steps 1-5 (total of 4 puffs/inhalations now given). Continue to give up to a total of 6 puffs/inhalations if required
9. Stay calm and reassure your child. If your child has responded allow to sit for 15-20 minutes while you observe them. Your child can return to normal activities when they feel better
10. If your child has not responded after 6 puffs stay calm, continue to give 1 puff/inhalation up to another 6 puffs (12 puffs/inhalations in total)
11. If the child does not feel better or you are worried at **ANYTIME** call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE**
12. If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 6 puffs/inhalations in the same way and call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE** again

Appendix 1

Personal Asthma Care Plan **Date:**

Name:……

Date of birth:……

Allergies:……

Emergency contact:……

Emergency contact number:……

Doctor's name & phone number:……

Class:……

What are the symptoms or signs that your child may be having an asthma attack?

Are there any key words that your child may use to express their asthma symptoms?

What is the name of your child's reliever medicine?

Does your child need help using their inhaler/spacer? (please circle) Yes No

What are your child's known asthma triggers?

When does your child need to take their reliever medicine? What is the dosage that has been prescribed?

I give my consent for school staff to administer/assist my child with their own reliever inhaler and spacer as required. Their inhaler and spacer are clearly labelled and in date.

Signed:……..
Date:…….

Print Name:…….. Relationship to child:……

Appendix 2

PARENT/CARER CONSENT FORM
USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER

1. I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed a salbutamol inhaler (delete as appropriate)
2. My Child has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which will be left at school
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):…….

Relationship to
child:……..

Child's
Name:……

Class:……

Parent's address and contact details:

……

……

Telephone:……

Email:……

Appendix 3

Asthma Register (Example)

NAME	CLASS	DOB	ASTHMA / WHEEZE	OTHER CONDITIONS	PARENT CONSENT	INHALER IN SCHOOL	SPACER IN SCHOOL	CAREPLAN UPDATED
Student 1	Year 4	27-Feb-18	Asthma	NA	YES	YES	YES	12-Apr-24
Student 2	Year 3	05-Jun-17	Asthma	NA	YES	YES	YES	16-Sep-23
Student 3	Nursery	18-Sep-16	Asthma	Hayfever	YES	YES	YES	23-Sep-23
Student 4	Reception	27-Dec-16	Wheeze	NA	NO	YES	YES	10-Oct-23
Student 5	Year 5	01-Oct-19	Asthma	NA	YES	YES	YES	09-Jan-24

Appendix 4

Letter to pharmacist for spare inhaler

Dear Pharmacist,

We wish to purchase Salbutamol inhalers and spacers for use in our school. The Salbutamol inhalers and Spacers will be used in accordance with manufacture's guidelines and the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014, allowing schools to buy salbutamol, without a prescription, for use in emergencies.

Item	Quantity
Salbutamol MDI Inhaler	
Spacers	
AeroChamber Plus Flow-Vu Anti-Static yellow with facemask (Trudell Medical UK Ltd)	
AeroChamber Plus Flow-Vu Anti-Static youth 5+ years (Green/blue) with mouthpiece (Trudell Medical UK Ltd)	
Disposable Able Spacer Pack x 10 (Clement Clarke)	

School	
Address	
Telephone number	

Yours faithfully,

Head Teacher

Appendix 5
'Count it out' Table

COUNT IT OUT

University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust

A **pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI)** inhaler should always be used via a spacer to ensure the right amount of medicine gets to the lungs.

Each pMDI inhaler will usually contain between 120-200 puffs. The inhaler contains a propellant to deliver the medication and it will continue to spray even after the medication has ran out.

It will still feel like it is spraying medicine but it is only spraying propellant.

Lots of people use empty inhalers without realising. You can not tell it is empty just by shaking it.

It is important to:

- Check how many doses are in the inhaler when it is new.
- Work out how many days the inhaler should last if it is being used as a once or twice daily preventer treatment. Mark on a calendar or set a reminder on your phone to alert you one to two weeks before it is due to run out. It can be more difficult to keep a track on how many doses of rescue inhaler has been used.
- You can use the table provided to mark off how many doses have been used from the preventer and rescue inhaler (see overleaf).

Everyone should have a Personal Asthma Action Plan (PAAP)

It is important to:

- take preventer medication as directed
- attend an asthma review once or twice per year

If asthma is well controlled, the health care professional may trial a step down of regular preventer treatment. If not well controlled preventer treatment may need to be stepped up.

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Please strike through every puff used on the table.

Collect a new inhaler before your inhaler runs out.

Return the empty inhaler to your local pharmacy for disposal.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150
151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160
161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170
171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180
181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190
191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200

Version 2.0 30/11/2022

Appendix 6

Instructions for Inhaler/Spacer Use

Symptoms of an asthma attack:

- Not all symptoms listed have to be present for this to be an asthma attack
- Symptoms can get worse very quickly
- If in doubt, give emergency treatment
- Side effects from salbutamol tend to be mild and temporary. These side effects include feeling shaky, or stating that the heart is beating faster

Cough
A dry persistent cough may be a sign of an asthma attack.

Chest tightness or pain
This may be described by a child in many ways including a 'tight chest', 'chest pain', tummy ache

Shortness of breath
A child may say that it feels like it's difficult to breathe, or that their breath has 'gone away'

Wheeze
A wheeze sounds like a whistling noise, usually heard when a child is breathing out. A child having an asthma attack may or may not be wheezing.

Increased effort of breathing
This can be seen when there is sucking in between ribs or under ribs or at the base of the throat. The chest may be rising and falling fast and in younger children, the stomach may be obviously moving in and out. Nasal flaring.

Difficulty in speaking
The child may not be able to speak in full sentences

Struggling to breathe
The child may be gasping for air or exhausted from the effort of breathing

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY, WHILST GIVING EMERGENCY TREATMENT IF THE CHILD:

- Appears exhausted
- Has blue/white tinge around the lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed

A metered dose inhaler should be used through a spacer device. **If the inhaler has not been used for 2 weeks, then press the inhaler twice into the air to clear it.**

A Spacer might be:	A spacer may have:
Orange Yellow Blue Clear	A mask A mouthpiece

Procedure for Emergency/Acute Asthma Attack

In the event of an asthma attack you should:

c. Keep calm and reassure your child
d. Encourage your child to sit up and slightly forward, loosen any tight clothing

If using a Pressurised Metered Dose Inhaler (pMDI):

12. Always use your child's inhaler with a spacer
13. Shake the rescue inhaler and insert the inhaler mouthpiece into the hole in the end of the spacer device
14. Put the mouthpiece of the spacer into your child's mouth and ask them to close their lips around to ensure a good seal or if using a mask place the mask securely over the nose and mouth (spacer with mask is only usually used for a child under 4 years)
15. Press the inhaler canister down to release 1 puff of medicine into the spacer and ask your child to breath in and out of the spacer 5 times
16. Remove from the child's mouth/face, wait 30-60 seconds then repeat from step 4 onwards and give another puff (total of 2 puffs now given)
17. If there is no improvement after 5 -10 minutes, give a further 2 puffs following steps 4-5 (total of 4 puffs now given)
18. If no improvement after 5-10 minutes give a further 2 puffs following steps 4-6 (total of 6 puffs now given)
19. Stay calm and reassure your child. If your child has responded allow to sit for 15-20 minutes while you observe them. Your child can return to normal activities when they feel better
20. If your child has not responded to 6 puffs stay calm, continue to give 1 puff every 30 to 60 seconds following steps 4-6 up to a total of another 10 puffs
21. If the child does not feel better or you are worried at **ANYTIME** call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE**
22. If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way and call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE** again

If using a Dry Powder Inhaler:

13. Load the dose in the inhaler according to the device instructions
14. Ask your child to breathe out completely, but not into the inhaler
15. Ask them to tilt their chin up slightly and place the inhaler mouthpiece into their mouth, ensuring a tight seal with their lips
16. Ask your child to breathe in quickly and deeply
17. Remove the inhaler from your child's mouth and ask them to hold their breath for 5-10 seconds to allow the medication to settle in their lungs
18. Repeat steps 1-5 (total of 2 puffs now given)
19. If there is no improvement after 5 minutes, give a further 1 puff/inhalation following steps 1-6 (total of 3 puffs now given)
20. If no improvement after 5 minutes give a further 1 puff/inhalation following steps 1-5 (total of 4 puffs/inhalations now given). Continue to give up to a total of 6 puffs/inhalations if required
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22. If your child has not responded after 6 puffs stay calm, continue to give 1 puff/inhalation up to another 6 puffs (12 puffs/inhalations in total)
23. If the child does not feel better or you are worried at **ANYTIME** call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE**
24. If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 6 puffs/inhalations in the same way and call **999 FOR AN AMBULANCE** again

Appendix 7

Dear parent/guardian of : ……

Your child has had problems with his/her breathing today which has required the use of their **own inhaler/school's emergency inhaler**. (delete as appropriate)

Since this may indicate your child's asthma is not well controlled at this time you are strongly advised to see your own doctor or practice nurse as soon as possible. If your child needs to use their reliever medication 3 times a week or more, seek a medical review.

Date	Time	Number of puffs	Where/Activity (eg.classroom/PE)	Given By

Yours sincerely

If your child needed to use the school emergency inhaler would you please ensure they have their own labelled inhaler and spacer in school.

If your child is needing to use their reliever inhaler more than 4 hourly please seek an urgent medical review.

Appendix 8

CLASS ASTHMA REGISTER

CLASS ……..

NAME	Expiry date of Inhaler
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Appendix 9

Record of Inhaler Use (Audit Form)

Name	Date	Time	No. of puffs	Where /activity eg. classroom/ PE	Child's own Inhaler	School Inhaler	Parent letter	Given By

Appendix 10

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System

Asthma Friendly School
NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent ICB

Asthma Friendly Schools Programme - Parent / carer guidance

Asthma is a long-term lung condition

It affects the airways (breathing tubes) that carry air in and out of your lungs causing them to become swollen. This makes the airways narrower, so less air gets into and out of the lungs.

If your child has asthma, they may present with various symptoms, some being:

- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Feeling short of breath
- A tight chest.

Sometimes your child might also:

- Complain of a tummy ache
- Lose their appetite
- Say their ribs ache
- Seem more tired than normal
- Breathe faster or more shallow
- Be unable to complete sentences.

Sometimes symptoms can get worse quickly. This is an asthma attack. Symptoms can be triggered by lots of different things and your child will have their own set of triggers, some of which are listed below:

- Flu/Chest infections
- Thunderstorms
- Cold weather
- Humid or warm weather
- Exercise
- Cigarettes and vaping
- Emotions e.g. stress, excitement, laughing, fear
- Hay fever
- Air pollution/ traffic fumes
- Pets
- Certain foods
- Alcohol and drugs
- Obesity

The best way to lower the risk of your child having an asthma attack or prevent their asthma from getting worse is to make sure:

- They take their medicines as prescribed, even if they feel well
- Your child always has their rescue inhaler with them
- Your child always uses a spacer if their inhaler is a pressurised metered dose inhaler (pMDI). Spacers are not needed with dry powder inhalers.

It can be helpful to monitor your child's asthma symptoms over time to work out what their triggers might be, or if their asthma is getting worse.

Using an asthma care plan helps you to look after your child's asthma, so they're less likely to have an asthma attack. Your child's school should always keep an up to date copy of your child's asthma care plan.

Speak to your GP if your child:

- Needs to use their reliever inhaler more than three times a week
- Wakes up at night coughing or wheezing once a week or more
- Struggles to do exercise
- Needs time off school or nursery because of their asthma.

If your child is having a severe asthma attack, they might:

- Breath very fast and with effort
- Flare their nostrils
- Be unable to talk or complete sentences (some children will go very quiet)
- Appear exhausted
- Have a blue/white tinge around their lips
- Go blue
- Collapse.

In the event of an asthma attack you should:

a. Keep calm and reassure your child
b. Encourage your child to sit up and slightly forward, loosen any tight clothing.

If using a reliever (blue) pressurised Metered Dose Inhaler (pMDI):

1. Always use your child's inhaler with a spacer
2. Shake the rescue inhaler and insert the inhaler mouthpiece into the hole in the end of the spacer device
3. Put the mouthpiece of the spacer into your child's mouth and ask them to close their lips around to ensure a good seal. If using a mask, place the mask securely over the nose and mouth (spacer with mask is only usually used for a child **under 4 years**)
4. Press the inhaler canister down to release 1 puff of medicine into the spacer and ask your child to breath in and out of the spacer 5 times
5. Remove from the child's mouth/face, wait 30-60 seconds then repeat from step 4 onwards and give another puff (total of **2** puffs now given)
6. If there is no improvement after 5 -10 minutes, give a further 2 puffs following steps 4-5 (total of **4** puffs now given)
7. If no improvement after 5-10 minutes, give a further **2** puffs following steps 4-6 (total of **6** puffs now given)
8. Stay calm and reassure your child. If your child has responded allow to sit for 15-20 minutes while you observe them. Your child can return to normal activities when they feel better
9. If your child has not responded to 6 puffs stay calm, continue to give 1 puff every 30-60 seconds following steps 4-6 up to a total of **10** puffs
10. Wait 5-10 minutes: if your child's symptoms have improved still arrange an urgent medical review (GP Practice or Out of Hours). If symptoms are not improving **immediately call 999**
11. If the ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give up to another 10 puffs in the same way and **call 999 for an ambulance** again.

Version	Review Date	Changes Made
V2	14.05.25	Identified asthma champion on the front cover. The role of the asthma champion is listed on page 4.
		Newly updated guidance from the NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board used to create the policy and present the information in a new format.
		Appendix 1 and 2-Asthma Care Plans updated and consent to use emergency salbutamol inhaler
		Appendix 3-Whole school asthma register update. This register will be displayed in the school office and staffroom alongside emergency procedure instructions (appendix and be available to all staff members including sports and after school club staff.
		Multiple emergency inhaler kits to be available in school (minimum of 2), that includes the contents listed on page 7 and posters to display their location.
		School spacers can be reused as long as they are thoroughly cleaned (monthly maintenance cleans need to take place) inhalers can be reused as long as they do not come into contact with bodily fluids. (Letter to be sent to parents if they use the school emergency inhaler).
		Appendix 6-what to do in the event of an asthma attack to be shared with staff and displayed in the staff room.
V3	23.02.26	Parent guidance included to the appendices.
		Additional asthma kits added to the list (hall/ trips).
		What to do in an asthma attack guidance updated
V4	15.05.26	Dates changed on the front cover