



Faldingworth Community Primary School
Normanby-by-Spital Primary School



Fair Acres
Federation
Our values and learning
are stronger together

Asthma Policy

Adopted: (Date)

Review date:

Signed: (Chair of
Governors)

Signed:
(Headteacher)

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Statement of intent

Faldingworth Primary and Normanby by Spital Primary School part of the Fair Acres Federation recognises that asthma is a serious but controllable condition and welcomes all pupils with asthma. This policy sets out how the schools ensure that pupils with asthma can participate fully in all aspects of school life including physical exercise, school trips and other out-of-school activities. It also covers how the schools enable pupils with asthma to manage their condition effectively in school, including ensuring immediate access to reliever inhalers where necessary.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Equality Act 2010
- DfE (2015) 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions'
- Asthma UK (2020) 'Asthma at school and nursery'
- DfE (2022) 'First aid in schools, early years and further education'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Complaints Policy
- First Aid Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board has a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and safety of staff and pupils is protected on the school premises and when taking part in school activities.
- Ensure that this policy, as written, does not discriminate against any of the protected characteristics, in line with the Equality Act 2010.
- Handle complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.
- Ensure this policy is effectively monitored and updated.
- Report any successes and failures of this policy to the headteacher, members of school staff, local health authorities, parents/carers and pupils.
- Provide indemnity for teachers and other members of school staff who volunteer to administer medicine to pupils with asthma in need of help.

The headteacher has a responsibility to:

- Create and implement this policy with the help of school staff, school nurses, local guidance and the governing board.
- Ensure this policy is effectively implemented and communicated to all members of the school community.
- Arrange for all members of staff to receive training on supporting pupils with asthma. Ensure all supply teachers and new members of staff are made aware of this policy and provided with appropriate training.
- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy.

- Ensure that first aiders are appropriately trained regarding asthma, e.g. supporting pupils to take their own medication and caring for pupils who are having asthma attacks.
- Report incidents and other relevant information to the governing board and LA as necessary.

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- Read and understand this policy.
- Know which pupils they come into contact with have asthma.
- Know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler.
- Inform parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack.
- Inform parents/carers if their child is using their reliever inhaler more than usual.
- Ensure pupils with asthma have their medication with them on school trips and during activities outside of the classroom.
- Ensure pupils who are unwell due to asthma are allowed the time and resources to catch up on missed school work.
- Be aware that pupils with asthma may experience tiredness during the school day due to their night-time symptoms.
- Be aware that pupils with asthma may experience bullying due to their condition and understand how to manage these instances of bullying.
- Make contact with parents/carers, the school nurse and the SENCO if a pupil is falling behind with their school work because of their asthma.

Staff supervising physical activity have a responsibility to:

- Understand asthma and its impact on pupils – pupils with asthma should not be forced to take part in activities if they feel unwell.
- Ensure pupils are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in, provided their asthma is well-controlled.
- Ensure pupils have their reliever inhaler with them during physical activity and that they are allowed to use it when needed.
- Allow pupils to stop during activities if they experience symptoms of asthma.
- Allow pupils to return to activities when they feel well enough to do so and their symptoms have subsided (the school recommends a 5–10-minute waiting period before allowing the pupil to return).
- If an asthma plan states that a pupil needs an inhaler before PE lesson/exercise this should be administered

- Ensure pupils with asthma always perform sufficient warm-ups and cool-downs.

Pupils with asthma have a responsibility to:

- Tell their teacher or parent/carer if they are feeling unwell due to their asthma (if it is agreed that they are independent enough to do so)
- Treat the school's and their own asthma medicines with respect by not misusing the medicines and/or inhalers.
- Know where their inhaler is located.
- Know how to take their asthma medicine.

All other pupils have a responsibility to:

- Treat other pupils, with or without asthma, equally, in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Understand that asthmatic pupils will need to use a reliever inhaler when having an asthma attack and ensure a member of staff is called immediately.

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Inform the school if their child has asthma.
- Ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date asthma care plan for their child.
- Inform the school of the medication their child requires during school hours.
- Inform the school of any medication their child requires during school trips, team sports events and other out-of-school activities.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's medicinal requirements.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's asthmatic condition, e.g. if their child is currently experiencing sleep problems due to their condition.
- Ensure their child's reliever inhaler (and spacer where relevant) is labelled with their child's name.
- Ensure that their child's reliever inhaler and spare inhaler are within their expiry dates.
- Ensure their child catches up on any school work they have missed due to problems with asthma.
- Ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctors or asthma nurse (recommended every 6-12 months).
- Ensure their child has a written Personal Asthma Action Plan at school to help the school manage their child's condition.
- Ensure that school are aware of known triggers

3. Asthma medicines

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as their parent/carer and the doctor agree that they are old enough and/or have sufficient capabilities and independence. If not, inhalers are given to the school to be looked after. Reliever inhalers kept in the school's charge are held in the pupil's classroom in a designated storage area.

Parents/carers will be required to label their child's inhaler with the child's full name and year group. Parents/carers will ensure that the school is provided with a labelled spare reliever inhaler, in case their child's inhaler runs out, or is lost or forgotten.

Members of staff are not required to administer medicines to pupils, except in emergencies. Staff members who have volunteered to administer asthma medicines will be insured by the school's appropriate level of insurance which includes liability cover relating to the administration of medication.

Staff will administer the asthma medicines in line with the school's Administering Medication Policy. For pupils who are old enough and/or have sufficient capabilities and independence to do so, staff members' roles in administering asthma medication will be limited to supporting pupils to take the medication on their own.

This policy is predominantly for the use of reliever inhalers. The use of preventer inhalers is very rarely required at school. In the instance of a preventer inhaler being necessary, staff members may need to remind pupils to bring them in or remind the pupil to take the inhaler before coming to school.

4. Emergency inhaler

The school keeps a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies when a pupil's own inhaler is not available. This is kept in the school's emergency asthma kit.

Emergency asthma kits contain the following:

- A salbutamol metered dose inhaler
- Two plastic, compatible spacers
- Instructions on using the inhaler and spacer
- The manufacturer's information
- A checklist, identifying inhalers by their batch number and expiry date
- A list of pupils with parent/carer consent and/or individual healthcare plans permitting them to use the emergency inhaler
- A record of administration showing when the inhaler has been used

The school buys its salbutamol inhalers from a local pharmacy. The emergency inhaler should only

be used by pupils, for whom written parent/carers consent has been received and who have been either diagnosed with asthma or prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. Parent/carers consent for the use of an emergency inhaler should form part of any pupil with asthma's individual healthcare plan.

When not in use, emergency inhalers are stored in the staff rooms (Faldingworth and Normanby by Spital School) in the temperate conditions specified in the manufacturer's instructions, out of reach and sight of pupils, but not locked away.

Expired or used-up emergency inhalers are returned to a local pharmacy to be recycled. Spacers must not be reused in school but may be given to the pupil for future home-use. Emergency inhalers may be reused, provided that they have been properly cleaned after use.

In line with the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and First Aid Policy, appropriate support and training will be provided for relevant staff, e.g. first aid staff, on the use of the emergency inhaler and administering the emergency inhaler.

Whenever the emergency inhaler is used, the incident must be recorded in the corresponding record of administration and the school's records. The records will indicate where the attack took place, how much medication was given, and by whom. The pupil's parents/carers will be informed of the incident in writing.

A designated staff member is responsible for overseeing the protocol for the use of the emergency inhaler, monitoring its implementation, and maintaining an asthma register.

The designated staff member who oversees the supply of salbutamol inhalers is responsible for:

- Checking that inhalers and spacers are present and in working order, with a sufficient number of doses, on a monthly basis.
- Ensuring replacement inhalers are obtained when expiry dates are approaching.
- Ensuring replacement spacers are available following use.
- Ensuring that plastic inhaler housing has been cleaned, dried and returned to storage following use, and that replacements are available where necessary.

5. Symptoms of an asthma attack

Members of staff will look for the following symptoms of asthma attacks in pupils:

- Persistent coughing (when at rest)
- Shortness of breath (breathing fast and with effort)
- Wheezing
- Nasal flaring
- Complaints of tightness in the chest

- Being unusually quiet
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences

Younger pupils may express feeling tightness in the chest as a 'tummy ache'.

6. Response to an asthma attack

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the procedure outlined below:

- Keep calm and encourage pupils to do the same.
- Encourage the pupil to sit up and slightly forwards – do not hug them or lie them down.
- If necessary, call another member of staff to retrieve the emergency inhaler – do not leave the affected pupil unattended.
- If necessary, summon the assistance of a member of suitably trained first aid staff to care for the pupil and help administer an emergency inhaler.
- Ensure the pupil takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler (or the emergency inhaler) immediately, preferably through a spacer.
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened.
- Reassure the pupil.

Staff will not administer any medication where they have not been trained to do so.

If there is no immediate improvement, staff will continue to ensure the pupil takes 2 puffs of their reliever inhaler every two minutes, until their systems improve, but only up to a **maximum of 10 puffs in a 15-minute period**. If there is no improvement before the pupil has reached 10 puffs:

- Call 999 for an ambulance.
- If an ambulance does not arrive within 10 minutes, the pupil can administer another 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler as outlined above.

Staff will call 999 immediately if:

- The pupil is too breathless or exhausted to talk.
- The pupil is going blue.
- The pupil's lips have a blue or white tinge.
- The pupil has collapsed.
- You are in any doubt.

7. Emergency procedures

Staff will never leave a pupil having an asthma attack unattended. If the pupil does not have their inhaler to hand, staff will send another member of staff or pupil to retrieve their spare inhaler. In

an emergency situation, members of school staff are required to act like a 'prudent parent/carer', i.e. making careful and sensible parent/carer decisions intended to maintain the child's health, safety and best interests.

As reliever medicine is very safe, staff will be made aware that the risk of pupils overdosing on reliever medicine is minor. Staff will send another pupil to get another member of staff if an ambulance needs to be called. The pupil's parent/carer will be contacted immediately after calling an ambulance.

8. Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their enrolment form.

The school keeps a record of all pupils with asthma, complete with medication requirements, in its asthma register. Parents/carers will be required to inform the school of any changes to their child's condition or medication during the school year.

All emergency situations will be recorded, and staff practice evaluated, in line with the First Aid Policy.

9. Exercise and physical activity

Games, activities and sports are an essential part of school life for pupils. All teachers will know which pupils in their class have asthma and will be aware of any safety requirements.

Outside suppliers of sports clubs and activities are provided with information about pupils with asthma taking part in the activity via the school's asthma register.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE lessons when they are able to do so. Pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise will be allowed ample time to thoroughly warm up and cool down before and after the session.

During sports, activities and games, each pupil's labelled inhaler will be kept in an accessible location and this is communicated with internal and external supervisory staff.

The school believes sport to be of great importance and utilises out-of-hours sports clubs to benefit pupils and increase the number of pupils involved in sport and exercise. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to become involved in out-of-hours sport as much as possible and will never be excluded from participation. Members of school staff and contracted suppliers will be aware of the needs of pupils with asthma during these activities and adhere to the guidelines outlined in this policy.

10. The school environment

The school environment, as far as possible, is kept free of the most common allergens that may

trigger an asthma attack. They should not keep warm blooded pets (for example dogs, rabbits or guinea pigs) inside the school premises. Smoking and vaping, is explicitly prohibited on the school site. Chemicals in science, cookery and art have the potential to trigger an asthma response and teachers and support staff should be aware of any pupils who may be at risk from these activities. Pupils who are known to have specific triggers will not be excluded from any activities and alternative options will be sought if required.

As far as possible, the school does not use any chemicals in art or science lessons that are potential triggers for asthma. If chemicals that are known to be asthmatic triggers are to be used, asthmatic pupils will be taken outside of the classroom and provided with support and resources to continue learning.

11. Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored continually by the headteacher. Any necessary amendments may be made immediately. The governing board will review this policy annually.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to staff, pupils, parents/carers and other relevant stakeholders.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is September 2026.

Asthma Policy Information Slip

Faldingworth School/Normanby by Spital School (delete as appropriate) keeps a record of pupils with asthma in order to ensure the best possible care for your child. In order for us to maintain effective records on our asthmatic pupils, please enter information as requested below:

Asthma Information

Name of child			
Date of Birth			
Emergency Contact Number			
Type of inhaler			
Dosage Requirements			
I can confirm that my child has an asthma diagnosis	YES (tick if applicable)	NO (tick if applicable)	Not Applicable (tick here)
I can confirm that my child has a temporary inhaler for the reason described	Please state reasons:		Not Applicable (tick here)
I confirm that I will supply an inhaler which is labelled and in date. I will check that the inhaler does not expire	(tick here)		

Independence

Children are encouraged to access their own inhaler in school and administer this themselves if they are able to. However, we accept that younger children may need supervision. Please assist by indicating your preference below;-

My child is independent and can access their inhaler in school. They can administer this independently and can report back to parents/carers on frequency of use independently. Parents/carers will be informed if a child has an asthma attack.	(tick)
My child needs support to administer the inhaler. I would like to receive feedback if my child has had an asthma attack in school and/or if inhalers have been required more frequently than described in the plan	(tick)

Emergency Inhaler Consent Form

Name of child	
Date of Birth	

At [Faldingworth School/Normanby by Spital School \(delete as appropriate\)](#), we keep a [Ventolin Inhaler \(Salbutamol\) and a spacer device](#) which is available in emergency situations. We are able to provide these to pupils who have forgotten their inhaler or are undergoing a severe attack, where the spacer may be more effective in administration.

The school asks that you give staff permission to administer emergency treatment as indicated below by signing the section below.

I hereby allow the school to administer emergency treatment as indicated above:

Signature of parent/carer:

Date: