School Asthma Policy

St Leonard's Primary 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.
- ensures children have access to asthma pumps as needed.
- keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take.
- 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 supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, Local authority, doctors, nurses, and pupils to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully.

Background

- This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Skills, Asthma UK, the local education authority – with particular reference to the guidance issued by the authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

Asthma Medicines

- Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. The reliever inhalers of children are kept in their school drawer or bag at all times for easy access.
- School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency). All staff will let pupils take their own medicine when they need to. This is supervised by an appropriate adult.
- Parents should provide a spare inhaler for emergencies. This will be kept in the teacher's classroom cupboard.

Record Keeping

- Prior to 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 their enrolment form.
- All parents/carers of children with asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma Card* to give to their child's doctor or asthma nurse to complete. Parents/carers are asked to return the asthma card to the school in the first week of the new academic year. From this information the school keeps its asthma register, which is available to all school staff.
- A record of when the child takes their asthma relief is kept by the adult supervising. This record is in the appropriate classroom folder with the asthma card.
- Any irregularities are reported to parents, for example a child needing to take asthma relief more than is usual for that child.

- Asthma Cards are sent to parents/carers of children with asthma on an annual basis to update. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their child's medicines, or how much they take, changes during the year. A review will take place at Parents' evenings to check all is in order.

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 know which children in their class have asthma; their names are on the asthma list in the blue class folder. We encourage children as they get older to try to remember this themselves and to take more control in remembering their medication.
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons.
- Teachers 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.
- If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so. This must then be recorded by an adult.

Off-site Sport and Swimming and Educational Visits

- The health benefits of exercise are well documented.
- Asthma pumps are taken off site and are kept by the child, in their bag, when the child participates in swimming, sports activities and educational visits. A copy of the school asthma card and a spare inhaler for the child is kept in the group leader's, bag with the asthma pump. This is returned to the classroom on return to school.

School Environment

- The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathered animals (we occasionally have chicks and/or hens in school on a temporary basis and as such children who suffer from asthma are safeguarded appropriately) 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 and go and sit in the school office if particular fumes trigger their asthma.
- Inhalers are taken out to Forest School sessions.

If a pupil is falling behind in lessons

- If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to Special Education Needs Coordinator about the pupil's needs. The Asthma/School Nurse will also be consulted and work as part of our team to support the child and their parents
- The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

Asthma Attacks

- All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by the School Nurse. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staff room. Instructions are also posted in each classroom alongside information sheets for visiting teachers ie supply staff.

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