



ASTHMA POLICY

September 2017

Asthma Policy

INTRODUCTION

Radius Trust is committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities for all our pupils and students. Supporting the health and wellbeing of pupils and students in all Trust schools is a crucial part of enabling effective learning and ensuring equality of opportunity for all.

This policy applies to all Radius Trust settings and is written with reference to: 'Supporting Pupils in Schools with Medical Conditions' (DfE 2014); 'Guidance on the Administration of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools' (DoH 2014); Asthma UK's 'School Policy Guidelines' (2006) and 'Medical Conditions Awareness Sessions' (2007); 'National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services' (DfE/DoH 2004); and 'Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier' (DoH, 2004). This policy should be read in conjunction with the Supporting Pupils in Schools with Medical Conditions Policy.

INHALERS

Pupils' and students' inhalers will always be readily available, either in the classroom or in supervised areas of the school.

Inhalers will be taken with the pupil/student by staff when out in the community.

If a pupil/student has exercise-induced asthma they will be encouraged to take their reliever before the session and to warm up and down before and after the session. If they need to use the inhaler during exercise they will be encouraged to do so.

Every Radius Trust school will keep an emergency salbutamol inhaler and compatible spacer in accordance with the Government's Human Medicines Regulations 2014. This can be used if the pupil or student's own inhaler is not available. This emergency inhaler will only be used for pupils/students who have asthma and where parents/carers have signed a consent form for its use. A register of pupils/students permitted to use the emergency inhaler will be kept with the inhaler and spacer. Each school will keep a record of use and inform parents/carers when a pupil or student has used the emergency inhaler

RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors will:

- Annually review school procedures relating to asthma support

Senior Leadership Teams will:

- Monitor, identify and respond to any issues relating to asthma management within schools
- Ensure that this policy is implemented effectively in schools
- Ensure that staff are aware of this policy and related procedures

Parents/carers will:

- Inform the school if the pupil or student in their care is diagnosed with asthma
- Ensure the school is provided with named prescribed reliever medication for the pupil or student and instructions for use (regular and or emergency)
- Provide a 'spacer' (and mask) if this is normally used
- Sign a consent form for the administration
- Keep the school updated with any changes to the treatment or presentation of the pupil or student's asthma.
- Keep the pupil or student at home if unwell with asthma

Teaching staff will:

- Be aware of the health needs of the pupils/students in their care
- Recognise that a student who has asthma may need their inhaler
- Follow procedures as outlined by Asthma UK. This procedure will be available in each school (see Appendix 1)
- Facilitate the administration of the inhaled medication to the pupil/student
- Inform parents/carers that medication has been administered

All staff will:

- Ensure they are aware of and adhere to this policy and related procedures

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Child Protection, Adult Protection & Safeguarding Policy
Health & Safety Policy
Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions Policy

Appendix 1: Asthma at School – Policy Guide

Common signs of an asthma attack

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Feeling tight in the chest
- Being unusually quiet
- Difficulty in speaking in full sentences

What to do

- Keep calm
- Encourage the student to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- Make sure the student takes two puffs of reliever inhaler immediately (preferably through the spacer)
- Loosen tight clothing
- Reassure

If there is no immediate improvement

- Continue to make sure the student takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve

Call 999 urgently if:

- The student's symptoms do not improve in 5-10 minutes
- The student is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- The student's lips are blue
- Or if you are in doubt

Continue to give the student one puff of their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance arrives

After a minor asthma attack

- Minor attacks should not interrupt the involvement of a student with asthma in school life. When the student feels better they can return to school activities.
- Parents/carers must always be told if the pupil/student has had an asthma attack.

Important things to remember in an asthma attack

- Never leave a student having an asthma attack
- If the student does not have their inhaler and/or spacer with them, send another member of staff to their classroom to get them.
- In an emergency situation staff are required under common law, duty of care, to act like any reasonably prudent parent/carer.

- Reliever medicine is very safe. During an asthma attack do not worry about a student overdosing.
- Send for help if an ambulance needs to be called.
- Contact parents/carers immediately after calling an ambulance.
- A member of staff should accompany a student taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until their parent/carer arrives.