

ASTHMA POLICY

Policy Owner – Bursar

This is a whole School policy and applies to all members of Copthorne Preparatory School including EYFS.

1 Aims:

- To ensure that all members of the Copthorne Prep School Community are treated in an effective, timely and efficient manner.
- To ensure that all treatment given is properly administered and documented.
- To ensure that if the child has an asthma attack and there is no improvement after 5 mins once the inhaler has been used, call 999.
- To ensure compliance with all legislation
- To ensure regular training sessions are held.

Responsible Person: Matron/First Aider in attendance

Parents of children with asthma should advise the school on the medical questionnaire on joining the school. Any changes to a particular condition and/or medication should be notified to the school immediately. A school asthma card is to be completed including consent from parents regarding administering emergency inhalers (the Asthma card is stored in Matron's room). A copy of the child's Management Plan should be supplied to the school.

2 Mild Asthma

It is the school's policy for children who suffer from mild asthma to have two inhalers within the school, one to be kept on their person/in their sports bag, and one to be kept with Matron where access is always available.

Matron will talk through the procedure with the children individually to ensure they know what is expected and they are confident to administer their own inhaler if matron should not be present.

3 Severe Asthma

For children with severe asthma individual care plans will be drawn up after discussion with the parents, medical advisor if necessary and matron.

Also, if required, other arrangements can be made for children's inhalers to be kept at another location within school subject to agreement with matron.

4 Emergency Inhalers

The school holds salbutamol inhalers, situated in the Prep and in the Pre-Prep. These emergency inhalers will only be used, if written consent has been obtained from parents of children suffering with asthma and evidence is documented on the schools asthma card.

5 Procedure for dealing with and recognising an asthma attack

See Appendix A & B

6 Off Site Arrangements

For off-site arrangements refer to Outing Policy. Children should keep their inhalers with them when they go off site on visits or to matches.

For internal games arrangements – children in the Prep School keep inhalers on their person which is checked by the games staff and Matron. Pre-Prep Staff ensure that the inhaler is available to the child and stored the in Pre-Prep Head's office or the individual classroom.

Parents and staff are responsible for advising the school of asthmatic needs or change of medical needs.

7 Related Policies

- Outing Policy

REVIEWED: Spring 2010/Spring 2013/Spring 2016/Spring 2019

AMENDED: Spring 2015

NEXT REVIEW: Spring 2022

Appendix I

HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK

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)

CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD

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

Appendix II

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- Keep calm and reassure the child.
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler.
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.
- Immediately help to take two puffs of salbutamol via the spacer.
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better.
- If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE.
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way.