Asthma Policy

Adopted September 2026
Review September 2027

ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DENTON
ASTHMA POLICY (1.4)

RATIONALE

The school:

- Recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition and welcomes all learners with asthma
- Ensures that learners with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including PE, science, visits, outings and out of hours school activities
- Recognises that learners with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- Keeps a register and an asthma care plan of all learners with asthma and the medicines they take
- Ensures that the whole school environment, including the physical, social, sporting and educational environment, is favourable to learners with asthma
- Ensures that all learners understand asthma
- Ensures that all staff (including supply teachers and support staff) who come into contact with learners with asthma are given basic awareness training about asthma and the use of an inhaler and know what to do in an asthma attack
- Understand that learners with asthma may experience bullying and has procedures in place to prevent this
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's governing body, all school staff, parents/carers, medical staff and learners to ensure the policy is implemented successfully
- Will keep an emergency inhaler on site to be used as per an individual's care plan, in an emergency

ASTHMA MEDICINES

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Learners with asthma have immediate access to their reliever inhalers which are kept in an agreed safe and accessible place in the classroom. Access to the reliever inhalers of younger children is through the school staff.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a labelled reliever inhaler which can be kept in school.

School staff members are not required to administer asthma medicines to learners, except in an emergency. However, some members of staff at this school are willing to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.

RECORD KEEPING

At 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 contact form. Parents/carers will also be asked to complete a school asthma card on an annual basis. (see Appendix 1) Children with asthma will be put on the school's asthma register. Members of staff are made aware of children with asthma and those who have medication in school.

A care plan is provided by the asthma nurse or GP and must be kept in school with their inhaler.

SCHOOL LINK WORKER

The school will have a designated link worker for children with asthma. This is currently **Diane Spensley.**

The link worker is responsible for:

- Compiling and keeping up to date the school's asthma register
- Ensuring the care plan is up to date
- Ensuring parents/carers are sent asthma cards on an annual basis and that all cards are returned to school
- Reminding class teachers that inhalers and care plans must be taken off site with the children when they go on school visits
- Assisting children who are unable to use the inhalers/spacers by themselves or arranging for other staff to do this
- Ensuring staff are aware of children with asthma and their specific needs in relation to this
- Checking termly that inhalers are in date and usable
- Arranging asthma awareness training for school staff

EXERCISE AND ACTIVITY

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all learners. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and teachers who cover are made aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

Learners with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. PE teachers will remind learners whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson and to warm up and down before and after the lesson.

Whenever possible the learner's labelled inhaler will be kept at the site of the PE lesson and the child will be encouraged to use it as necessary during the lesson. The same principles will be followed by class teachers for any activities in school involving physical activity.

Any visiting staff teaching PE or any physical activity eg sports coaches will be made aware of the asthma register and the school's asthma policy and procedures.

Learners with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons.

OUT OF HOURS ACTIVITIES
Learners with asthma have access to after school activities.

SCHOOL VISITS
When children go off site for school visits the class teacher will check that the children who use inhalers take them on the trip. Staff must take the care plan on the trip. This applies to all off site visits whatever the duration and includes residential trips.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT
The school will do all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to learners with asthma. The school has a strict no smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for learners with asthma. If this could not be avoided a risk assessment would be carried out and arrangements made for learners with asthma.

LEARNERS' PROGRESS
If a learner 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 what support can be given to help prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the class teacher will then talk to the school nurse and special educational needs coordinator about the learner's needs.

The school recognises that it is possible for learners with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma.

ASTHMA ATTACKS
All staff who come into contact with learners with asthma will be aware of what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

In the event of an asthma attack the school follows a clear procedure which is detailed in training and visibly displayed in every classroom throughout school. (see Appendix 2)

RESOURCES
A useful resource for information on asthma is Asthma UK website.

ACCESS AND REVIEW OF POLICY
The Asthma Policy will be accessible to all staff and the school community through the school's website. Hard copies can be obtained through the school office. This policy will be reviewed on a three yearly cycle.

APPENDIX 1
St Anne's Primary School Denton

Dear Parent/Carer,

School Asthma Care Plan

We are committed to providing quality care for children with asthma. We take our responsibilities to pupils with asthma seriously. We have an Asthma Policy to enable all staff members to help your child manage their condition.

To ensure your child receives the best possible care at all times, we ask you to assist with the following:-

- Complete the school asthma care card (if you are in any doubt about the treatment, please take the form to your doctor or asthma nurse for completion)
- Sign the declaration form
- Obtain an asthma care plan from your GP and bring into school
- Inform school immediately of any change of treatment (when appropriate)
- Ensure your child has a reliever (blue) inhaler for use in school (and a spacer if this is the usual method of delivery) as well as a home inhaler (School inhaler to be kept in school)

If you have any questions or wish to see a copy of the Asthma Policy and procedures, please contact the school office. Thank you for your co-operation in this important matter.

Yours sincerely.

Mrs K Rimmer
HEADTEACHER

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ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DENTON – PARENT/CARER ASTHMA DECLARATION

I ……. (parent/carer name) confirm that my

child…….…… is

a *Able to take responsibility for the administration of their own reliever in school (blue) inhaler when required* ***or***

b *Unable to take responsibility for the administration of their own reliever inhaler (blue) and will require assistance during school hours*

Signed …….. (Parent\carer) Date……

St Anne's School Asthma Card

Please help us to provide the best possible care to meet your child's needs by completing this form and returning it to school promptly. Please inform the school immediately if there are any changes during the school year. You will be asked to complete a form each school year.

Child's name ……Date of Birth…….

Address…….

……..

Telephone Number ……Mobile …….

Emergency contact number……..

GP Name …….. Telephone No……

Regular treatment to be given during school hours

Name of medication	Dosage	When to be taken

Reliever medication to be given as required

Name of medication	Dosage	When to be taken

Treatment to be taken before exercise

Name of medication	Dosage	When to be taken

Asthma Triggers (if known)

APPENDIX 2

COMMON SIGNS OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Feeling tight in the chest
- Being unusually quiet
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences
- Tummy ache (especially in younger children)

PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- Keep calm
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
- Whenever possible the inhaler should be taken where the attack occurred
- Reassure the child
- Ensure any tight clothing is loosened
- If there is no immediate improvement continue to make sure the child takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for 5 minutes or until symptoms improve
- Stay with the child until the attack is resolved
- Inform parent/carer that an attack has taken place

CALL AN AMBULANCE BY DIALLING 999 IF:

- The child's symptoms do not improve in 5 to 10 minutes
- The child is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- The child's lips are blue
- You are in any doubt at all re the child's well being