

Thurlbear CE VA Primary School

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it” Proverbs 22:6

Asthma

Asthma is a condition that affects small tubes (airways) that carry air in and out of the lungs. When a person with asthma comes into contact with something that irritates their airways (an asthma trigger), the muscles around the walls of the airways tighten so that the airways become narrower and the lining of the airways becomes inflamed and starts to swell. Sometimes, sticky mucus or phlegm builds up, which can further narrow the airways. These reactions make it difficult to breathe, leading to symptoms of asthma (Source: Asthma UK).

At Thurlbear School, we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious, but controllable condition. Thurlbear School aims to support these pupils to fully participate in school life.

We do this by having:

- ✓ an asthma register
- ✓ an asthma policy
- ✓ an awareness amongst all staff about what to do if a pupil suffers an asthma attack.

We also ensure:

- ✓ all pupils have immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all time
- ✓ all pupils, with asthma, have an up to date Health Care Plan.

We ask parents/carers to:

- ✓ Notify the school if their child has asthma.
- ✓ Complete a 'Medication Form' if inhaler medication needs to be administered by a member of staff because the child is unable to use the inhaler by themselves. Staff will always supervise a child using an inhaler.
- ✓ Supply their child with a named in date inhaler, and spacer if necessary.
- ✓ Give signed permission for trained school staff to use an emergency inhaler, kept on the school site if necessary. (optional)
- ✓ Notify the school of any change in their child's condition/medication.

Children who have been identified as having asthma should have an inhaler in school. If parents do not consider it appropriate to supply their child with an inhaler, then this must be their responsibility.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child's inhalers/medication has been transferred to the child's new classroom at the start of a new academic year.

We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all aspects of school life.
- ✓ Notify parents if their child has required his/her inhaler to be administered during the day. (This does not apply to children who have the responsibility of administering their own medication.)
- ✓ Provide an accessible, safe place for the storage of the inhalers kept in school.
- ✓ Ensure the 'asthma' is identified as part of the risk assessment process for school trips or offsite visits.
- ✓ Ensure that staff have an understanding of what to do in the event of a child having an asthma attack.
- ✓ To ensure that all staff have the opportunity to attend regular in-school training.
- ✓ Call an ambulance if no relief with treatment is obtained or if the child is distressed, unable to take or turning blue.
- ✓ To make all parents aware of this policy via the School website and prospectus.

Reviewed February 2024