



# ASTHMA EMERGENCY TREATMENT POLICY 2018/19

## **Asthma Emergency Recognition of an Asthma Attack**

**Asthma varies from child to child it is impossible to give rules that apply to everyone**

- 1) Difficulty in breathing. Chest may feel tight, possible audible wheeze.
- 2) May find it difficult to speak.
- 3) Increased pulse rate
- 4) Anxiety
- 5) Coughing, sometimes persistently.

## **Procedure**

- 1) Keep yourself and the child calm.
- 2) Encourage slower deeper breaths.
- 3) Loosen tight clothing around neck and chest.
- 4) Sit child down and lean slightly forward over a support if possible e.g. table
- 5) Use aerochamber (spacer) whenever possible
- 6) Shake inhaler.
- 7) Attach inhaler to spacer
- 8) Administer one puff into spacer and instruct child to breathe (suck) in and then a second puff (up to 10 puffs.)
- 9) Repeat administration (normally 2-4 times) until relief or help has arrived.
- 10) Document the incident and treatment. Report on PASS, under notes - first aid.
- 11) Call for FAW or school nurse if still concerned and would like advice

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. As soon as they feel better they can return to school activity.

## **CALL AN AMBULANCE IF:**

- The reliever has no effect after 5-10minutes
- The child is distressed, unable to speak, exhausted and cyanosed (blue)
- If at any time you are concerned about the severity of the attack.

Salbutamol is a prescription only medicine and should only be given to those who have been prescribed it.

NB: Asthma and Panic attacks/hyperventilation can often be mistaken.

## **For Staff and Parents**

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. Moira House welcomes all pupils with asthma and encourages them to achieve and meet their full potential in all aspects of school life.

## **Parents' Role**

- Parents should inform the School nurse of their daughter's condition and treatment on an annual basis or if treatment is changed. They should include normal peak flow reading, treatment for respiratory infection and emergency action.
- **A labelled spare reliever inhaler** should be sent to school to remain in the medical department.



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## School nurse's Role

- Asthma records are maintained in the medical department.
- Individual care plans are created in liaison with parents and pupil where necessary. Names and photographs of all known asthmatic girls are listed in Common Room and on the PASS system for early identification and treatment.
- Develop an understanding of asthma through the schools PSHCE programme; poster displays activities and staff training.
- Create awareness amongst children and staff in recognising and treating Asthma.
- Provide emergency care /referral to GP or hospital as appropriate.
- A Spare Salbutamol inhaler is kept in reception and the boarding office for use in an emergency

## Teaching/sports Staff

- Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life. All teachers know which children have asthma. PE teachers will remind girls whose asthma is triggered before exercise to take their inhaler before the lesson, and to warm up and down before and after each lesson.
- No inhaler, no sport. Girls must take a named inhaler to the sport or activity.
- School Staff are not required to administer asthma medication to girls except in an emergency. All school staff will let girls take their medication when they need too.

## Pupils Role

- To ensure they ask questions and have a clear understanding of their condition and trigger factors.
- To recognise symptoms of their condition and when to seek help.
- To take their medication as prescribed.
- Girls are responsible for their inhalers and should carry them at all times.

## Pre-Prep and Lower Prep

- When a child understands her condition and is able to use her medication safely, allow her to keep reliever with her at all times. A labelled spare inhaler must be left with the class teacher
- Younger girls' inhalers should be named and kept with class teacher in an accessible draw.
- The inhaler must be given to PE staff for games/ activities.

## School Environment

Moira House helps to be Asthma friendly through

- No Smoking Policy
- No Pets within the classroom
- Awareness in Science Labs.

## Related policies and documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies and documents:

Employee Handbook  
Staff Handbook  
Code of Conduct for Employees  
Health Safety Handbook  
Boarding Staff Handbook



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National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools  
ISI Handbook for the Inspection of Schools, Regulatory Requirements  
Teachers' Standards  
Departmental Handbook  
Keeping Children Safe in Education  
Safeguarding Policy  
Medical Policies  
Complaints Policy (Parents)  
Complaints Policy (Pupils)

POLICY REVIEWED BY JTA: June 2018

POLICY REVIEWED BY SCHOOL COUNCIL:

NEXT REVIEW: June 2019