

# Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy

St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Multi-Academy Trust



## ASTHMA POLICY

Policy Date:	24/03/20		Kate Hayles Head Teacher	
Policy Review Date:	21/03/22		Edward Hayes Chair of Governors	

# Asthma Policy

Sacred Heart Catholic Voluntary Academy welcomes all children and will do everything it can to encourage Asthma sufferers to take a full and active part in School life.

All staff will work to integrate asthma sufferers into School life recognising that they suffer from a debilitating condition that can affect around 10 % of the School population.

## Parental Role

On entering their children into school parents are asked to fill in an emergency contact form on which is specifically asked whether the child suffers from asthma. If this is the case then the information will be passed onto the School's First Aider and further details recorded onto the child's individual asthma record card. Parents are asked to keep the school up to date with their child's condition.

## School Life

We would aim that asthma sufferers join in all school life including playtime games and P.E. lessons. Children are encouraged to take puffs on their inhaler prior to P.E. sessions, however if a child becomes breathless or wheezy during any school activity then the child will be allowed to rest until fully recovered.

## Pets/Animals

Animals such as rabbits, hamsters, and guinea pigs can cause severe and sudden reaction in children with asthma. These children would not be expected to handle or feed these animals if they are in school as part of the curriculum.

## Asthma Attack

In event of an asthma attack staff should follow these guidelines:

1. If a child becomes breathless and wheezy, stay calm.
2. Get the pupil to sit in a position they find comfortable – they do not have to lie down.
3. Allow the pupil to take their usual reliever/inhaler.
4. If there is no relief from the symptoms within 5 – 10 minutes repeat the dosage and contact the parents.
5. If parents are not available then contact the family doctor.
6. In severe cases i.e. if the inhaler has no effect at all, then contact the doctor and ask him to come to School at once or take the child to the nearest hospital casualty department and inform the parents.

## **Asthma Records**

The school will ask all new parents whether their child has asthma. A record in the form of an Asthma Card will be kept in school and updated annually.

The card will show:

- Personal details and hospital reference if applicable
- Treatment needed regularly (preventer)
- Relief treatment (relievers) if required

There will also be a note on the child's personal file and on the teachers' class lists.

## **Access to inhalers**

Common relievers are usually called Ventolin. These are usually blue.

Preventer inhalers may occasionally be kept in school. These are usually brown.

Where inhalers are necessary (i.e. prescribed by a doctor) children will need to have access to them quickly. In all classrooms, a 'first aid' draw string bag is hung as close to the door as possible and must be taken to any other part of the building as the children move around. The bags for each class should be hung up outside on the appropriate hook at playtime and lunch time.