



MARISH

Academy Trust

Support for children who have Asthma policy
Appendix A to the supporting pupils with medical
needs policy
January 2025
Version 6.0

School Name:	Willow Primary School
Executive Headteacher:	Gill Denham
Substantive Headteacher:	Amanda Court
Asthma Lead:	Shabana Quadir
Asthma Champion:	Rafya Hussain
School Nursing team:	Frimley Health Respiratory Nursing Team

The Principles and aims of our school asthma policy

Marish Academy Trust recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many school children and welcomes all pupils with asthma. This policy aims to ensure that:

- children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE
- all staff understand that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- all staff maintain records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- the school environment is supportive and inclusive towards children with asthma
- all children understand what asthma is and how it affects others
- all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- all staff work in partnership with all interested parties including all school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented in practice

Context

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education and National Asthma Campaign. Marish Academy Trust endeavours to ensure that children with asthma achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy and procedure for their support that is understood by school staff, volunteers and pupils.

Supply teachers and new staff are made aware of the policy as part of the Safeguarding Induction process and will receive regular asthma updates. This training will be provided by the school nursing team (yearly) or via Education for Health [Supporting Children's Health and Young People with Asthma \(educationforhealth.org\)](https://www.educationforhealth.org). (every two years). We aim to ensure a minimum of 85% of staff complete this.

Asthma Lead & Champion

This school has an asthma lead who is named above. It is the role of the Asthma Lead to facilitate the resources required to implement and maintain the school's Asthma Friendly Status. These resources include the provision of time for staff to complete required training and implement the Asthma Friendly Schools programme.

This school has an Asthma Champion who is named above. The Asthma Champion has attended specific Asthma Champion training provided by the Frimley Health Respiratory Nursing Team and continue to attend yearly training updates. It is the responsibility of the asthma champion to implement the Asthma Friendly School programme. Including management of the asthma register, update the asthma policy, manage the emergency salbutamol inhalers (please refer to the Department of Health Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools, March 2015) ensure measures are in place so that children have immediate access to their inhalers.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital, salbutamol (usually blue) or their Symbicort Turbohaler (white and red). Children are encouraged to carry their inhaler as soon as their parents, carer, doctor, nurse or class teacher agree they are mature enough to manage their own medication.

Children should always tell their class teacher or first aider when they have had occasion to use their inhaler. Parents are notified and records are kept through Medical Tracker each time a child uses their inhaler. The reliever inhalers of children are kept in their individual classroom in a clearly labelled cupboard or drawer. All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name by the parent.

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Under the law, school staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency, however the vast majority of our staff have agreed to do this. School staff who agree to do this are insured by the local education authority/DfE when acting in accordance with this policy. All school staff have been instructed to allow children to take their own medication when needed.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child has asthma. All parents of children with asthma (or any other health condition), are required to complete a School record form and return it to the school. Marish Academy Trust uses this to compile its medical needs register.

If any changes are made to a child's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school. It is also parents' responsibility to ensure the inhalers held in school are in date and replaced as necessary.

Emergency inhalers

Marish and Willow Primary Schools do hold an emergency inhaler and spacer as permitted under the DfE bulletin, 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015. The emergency kit is kept in the medical room.

However, both schools are based on relatively large sites and it is imperative that parents/teachers do not rely on this and must ensure an up to date inhaler is in school. One is carried with their child wherever they go, if they need it and for younger children it is held in the classroom.

Emergency inhaler medication can only be administered to children on the Asthma Register. Specific staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler and there are pictorial and written instructions around the school. Parents of children with Asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available

Those who are on a Symbicort (white and red) MART regime can safely be administered the school emergency salbutamol in the event of their device being empty, not being available or broken.

Any puffs should be documented so that it can be monitored when the inhaler is running out. The inhaler has 200 puffs, so when it gets to 150 puffs having been used we will order a replacement.

Following use, the plastic housing which holds the canister of the inhaler will be washed and dried as per manufacturer instructions and can be used again. Once the plastic spacer has been used this should be sent home with the child with a request that the family replace it. It should not be used by another child. In the meantime, the school should replace the spacer. Or if able to do so use the child's personal spacer to administer the school's emergency inhaler.

General practice to support children with asthma at Marish Academy Trust.

Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom in a named wallet containing their individual medication and asthma record in their classroom cupboard or teacher's desk drawer. All staff members are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. This information can be found in each child's medication wallet along with their medication.

Teachers and learning support assistants must ensure that any child with asthma has their asthma pack with them as they move around school, including outside in the grounds. If they discover an inhaler is out of date, they must contact a parent immediately and request a replacement, also informing the first aid team.

PE staff must ensure they remind the class/club/team to collect their inhalers when they take them to a PE lesson/club/match or practice session. Children must not be sent to the medical room without an adult to fetch their spare inhaler for obvious reasons.

At the end of each academic year all inhalers and spacers will be sent home with the child. This is to prevent loss and confusion regarding expiry dates.

Parents must ensure that they check the dates on inhalers and set reminders for themselves to replace these, as these are only checked by first aid staff once annually in September and sporadically if a child goes on an external trip.

PE and Physical activity such as the daily mile or swimming

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from the asthma register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE and other physical activities.

Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so. Records are kept every time a child uses their inhaler and parents are informed if a child uses the emergency inhaler.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be available to them at all times.

The School Environment

Marish Academy Trust does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. On occasion, the Nursery classes do take part in the egg/chick scheme. We also have a reading dog who visits school to provide pet therapy to specific children.

However, teachers will be aware of any child who has a fur or feather allergy and will ensure these children are kept away or observe from a safe distance as appropriate. As far as possible, our schools do not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for children with asthma. Children who are will be removed from the room to another area, if particular fumes trigger their asthma.

Making the School Asthma Friendly

Marish Academy Trust school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

What to do if asthma is a barrier to learning

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the inclusion team and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. Marish Academy Trust recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs.

Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

Our schools follow the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms:

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better they can return to school activities. The child's parents must be informed about the attack.

Emergency procedure

If the pupil does not feel better or you are worried at any time before reaching 10 puffs from the inhaler, call 999 for an ambulance.

If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes, give an additional 10 puffs as detailed above.

In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's parents or carers should always be contacted.

In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they should always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer is present.