Bentilee Nursery School –Asthma Policy

Date- Autumn 1st half term 2019

Reviewed date- Summer 1st half term 2025

Next review- Summer 1st half term 2026

This school:-

- **Welcomes pupils with asthma**
- **Recognises asthma as an important condition**
- **Encourages and helps children with asthma to participate fully in school life**
- **Recognises the need for immediate access to inhalers**
- **States that each child must have their own inhaler in school (the blue reliever medication)**
- **Attempts to provide a school environment as favourable as possible to asthmatic children**
- **Ensures all staff understand asthma and what to do in the event of an attack, and will if necessary give emergency treatment**
- **Will inform parents of attacks and any treatment given**
- **Works with parents, governors, school staff and the school health service to ensure the successful implementation of the school asthma policy**
- **Does not assume responsibility for the routine treatment of asthma which remains the prerogative of the parent in conjunction with the child's GP.**

If a child is having an asthma attack

What to do

- keep calm and reassure the child
- encourage the child to sit up
- make sure the child takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler immediately (preferably through their spacer)
- if there is no immediate improvement continue to give them two puffs of reliever inhaler (one puff at a time, remembering to shake between puffs)
- if they don't feel better after taking their inhaler as above or if you are worried at any time call 999 for assistance
- if an ambulance does not arrive within ten minutes – repeat step 3

(A spacer is a plastic holding chamber with a mouthpiece or mask at one end and a hole for the aerosol inhaler at the other. Spacers help because they help to deliver the inhaled medication to the lungs. They also make the inhaler easier to use and reduce the likelihood of side effects).

After a minor asthma attack

If the child or young person feels better after taking their reliever inhaler their normal activities should continue. The parent/carer should always be informed if their child has had an asthma attack or has been asking for their inhaler more than usual.

Important key messages

- Never leave a child who is having an asthma attack or send them away. Remember – bring the inhaler to the child, not the child to the inhaler.
- In an emergency school staff are required under the common law, duty of care to act as any reasonably prudent parent.
- Contact the parent/carer immediately AFTER calling 999.

How to use A SPACER DEVICE

- REMOVE THE CAP FROM THE SPRAY AND SHAKE GENTLY FIVE OR 6 TIMES. Prime inhaler (spray 2 puffs) then re-shake
- Put the inhaler into the hole at the end of the spacer
- Put the mouthpiece into the child's mouth keeping their lips behind the ring. Make sure the child's lips are sealed around the mouthpiece
- Encourage the child to breathe in and out slowly and gently (ie normnally). You may hear a clicking noise which is the valve opening and closing-this is normal. If the child cannot move the valve, tilt the inhaler end of the spacer to keep the valve open.
- Continue with this breathing pattern and press the medication canister down once (one puff). Leave the spacer in the mouth while five more breaths are taken.
- Repeat as above if more puffs are required
- Sake the inhaler after every 2 puffs
- Remove the space from the child's mouth

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Bentilee Nursery School Asthma- Parental information

The school has an asthma policy and maintains a register of pupils with asthma. Your child may have been diagnosed as asthmatic or alternatively they may experience breathing difficulties of suffer from a persistent cough, especially at night, after exercise or when laughing or crying. S/he may have repeated chest infections.

If your child does have asthma or any of the other problems described above please complete the form below and return it to school. You may wish to discuss the problems fully with your GP in order that we can make the best provision for your child's safety in school. If your child is prescribed reliever therapy (blue inhaler) please also complete the second part of the form which gives your consent for school to administer this. Please be aware that the school does not have any emergency inhalers in school.

If your child should develop asthma during their time at school please inform us as soon as possible.

JULIET LEVINGSTONE HEAD TEACHER MA PRIMARY EDUCATION

Child's name _____

Asthma____cough____breathing problems____chest infections_____

Signed parent / guardian_____

Please tick as appropriate.

Child's Name_____

I agree to provide the Nursery with a prescribed relief medication (blue inhaler) that is permanently kept at school

I hereby give my consent for school staff to give my child reliever therapy for his / her asthma.

I understand that I will be informed when treatment has been required other than for routine use prior to physical exercise etc.

In an emergency, if the inhaler is empty I give permission for my child to be administered another child's blue inhaler.

Signed Parent /Carer_____date_____

Bentilee Nursery School

Tel:-01782 235065

Dear_____

Your child has had problems with his / her breathing today. This has required the use of their own relief medication.

You are strongly advised to have your child seen by your doctor, especially if your child is not known to be asthmatic, as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

J S Levingstone

JULIET LEVINGSTONE HEAD TEACHER MA PRIMARY EDUCATION

- **Copy to be kept in asthma box.**

Asthma register

name	Date identified ie.entry or date	group	Key person

Bentilee Nursery School Asthma register

name	What and how often

Child's name_____

DATE AND TIME	BY WHOM	HOW MANY PUFFS	WITNESSED