



Sidcot

Live Adventurously

Asthma Policy

Policy Number: 4.3

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1. Aims

In keeping with the Quaker ethos and philosophy and its obligations as a responsible educational establishment, Sidcot School aims to foster an environment that supports the integration and wellbeing of all students with Asthma.

Children with Asthma are encouraged to reach their full potential in all aspects of Sidcot School life.

2. Objectives

- All staff and students are aware that Asthma is a common condition affecting many people.
- Sidcot School provides a safe and favourable environment for children with Asthma.
- All children with Asthma have immediate access to their reliever inhaler.
- All Students diagnosed with Asthma have an Asthma care/action plan.
- All boarding students with Asthma are reviewed by the GP / School Asthma nurse annually.
- Emergency arrangements are in place to support students with Asthma.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all children receiving education at Sidcot School including boarders, EYFS Junior School and senior school (including sixth form).

This policy applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with students, even where this is away from the school, for example on an educational visit.

The terms 'child', 'children', and 'student' may be used interchangeably to refer to all those in our care. This policy is available on the school website, a hard copy can be provided free of charge from Sidcot School.

The term "guardian" refers to educational guardian.

The term parent refers to all those with parental responsibility for the child .

4. Education

- All staff and students are aware of the Asthma Policy.
- The Health Centre provides up to date information on Asthma and its management.
- The Health Centre provides annual updates to all school staff on Asthma Awareness.
- Children have the opportunity to learn about Asthma in Key Stages 1 + 2 of the National Curriculum

5. Environment

Sidcot School recognises that Asthma is a common chronic health condition affecting around 1.1 million children in the UK, and positively welcomes all students with Asthma.

- Sidcot School will do all it can to ensure that the environment is favourable to children with Asthma.
- The School has a Non-Smoking Policy
- As far as possible the school avoids using chemicals in Science, Technology and Art lessons that are potential triggers for children with Asthma, however staff working within these faculties are aware of any students with Asthma and able to recommend the student avoids close contact where Asthma triggers have been identified.

6. Medication

- All children with Asthma have immediate access to their reliever inhaler. Older students must carry their reliever inhaler with them at all times.
- Children who attend the Sidcot Junior School may carry their own inhaler when parents/staff agree they are

competent to do so. The reliever inhaler will otherwise be kept in the class room and clearly labelled with the child's name on it.

- All school staff will let children take their own medication when they need to.
- Children with Asthma in the Boarding Houses may require regular preventative inhaler medication. This will be kept by the student in the Boarding House
- An emergency inhaler and spacer device is available in the Health Centre, Senior School staff room, the Junior School staff room, and 2 in the Sports Centre; allowing for 1 emergency Inhaler kit to be taken to sports field when games lessons are taking place at the field.

7. Record Keeping

- It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform the school about their child's Asthma on admission and on an ongoing basis if there are any changes to the condition or medication, and provide the school with sufficient information about their condition, treatment, Asthma triggers, and any support they may need.
- It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to inform the Health Centre of any changes to medication or Asthma treatment plan.
- Boarding students will be seen by the school nurse / doctor in the Health Centre to review treatment annually or sooner if required

8. Physical Education

- Children with Asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE/games/swimming lessons. Students whose Asthma is triggered by exercise are encouraged to take their reliever inhaler before that lesson and warm up for 5 minutes beforehand.
- The child's reliever inhaler will be available should they need to use it during a lesson.

9. Asthma Attack

All Staff who come into contact with children with Asthma know what to do in the event of an Asthma Attack.

- a. Ensure the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
- b. Stay calm and reassure the child
- c. Help the child to breathe by ensuring that tight clothing is loosened and they can sit up
- d. If the child has forgotten their reliever inhaler, the reliever is unavailable or faulty, and there is signed consent from parents/guardians ([Appendix 1](#)), then the emergency salbutamol inhaler may be administered by a member of staff. Only members of staff who have attended an Asthma training session are able to administer the inhaler. An up to date list of eligible staff can be found in the emergency kits.
- e. If the emergency inhaler is used, the spacer device must be disposed of pursuant to the directions in Appendix 3 and the inhaler canister removed to enable thorough cleaning of the holder as per manufacturer's instructions.
- f. Parents/guardians must be informed
- g. Complete 'Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler use form' for parents/guardians and copy for student records ([Appendix 2](#)).
- h. The emergency inhaler kits will be checked monthly by the Health Centre staff.
- i. If the emergency inhaler is used, the Health Centre staff must be informed as soon as possible so a replacement spacer device can be returned to the box.
- j. If an Asthma attack is not relieved quickly (within 5-10 minutes) then staff will seek help from the Health Centre or call an ambulance (see Emergency Procedure below).

See information on procedures following use of the emergency salbutamol inhaler ([Appendix 3](#)).

10. 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 (day students) or boarding house staff (boarders) must be informed about the attack.

11. Emergency procedures

Call the Health Centre if:

- a) The reliever has no effect after 5-10 minutes
- b) The child is either distressed or unable to talk
- c) The child is getting exhausted
- d) You have any doubts at all about the child's condition

If the Health Centre staff are not available an ambulance must be called.

12. References

Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools, September 2014

13. Supporting Policies

- 2.1 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- 4.1 Medical Policy
- 4.2 Supporting Students with medical conditions, disabilities

14. Policy review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Nurse, in conjunction with the Deputy Head Pastoral or earlier if incident occurs, or if changes to medical advice on asthma are made. It will be presented to the Board of Governors at their annual safeguarding review.

Document Change History – document any changes since policy adopted June 2016.

Date of change	Detail significant changes and any new legislation / guidance taken into account
3.12.2016	Board adopts policy – minor grammatical changes made Paragraph 6 – clarification of availability of inhalers in the Sports Centre / Sports Field
07.10.2017	Board reviews and adopts policy
07.10.2018	Policy reviewed, no changes required.

Appendix 1Emergency Inhaler Consent Form: parents/guardians

Independent day and
boarding school for
boys and girls aged 3-18

CONSENT FORM: USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER IN SCHOOL

Child's name:

Date of Birth:

Boarding Pupil Day Pupil

✓ *Please tick to confirm*

- I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma and has been prescribed an inhaler
- I confirm my child has a working, in-date reliever inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which I ensure they will bring with them to school every day.
- In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not accessible or is unusable, I and all persons with parental responsibility consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.
- If in the event of my child needing an emergency salbutamol inhaler in school I agree to take my son/daughter to see their doctor/ asthma nurse within the next 48 hours to review their condition and treatment. (In the event of a boarding student requiring the emergency salbutamol inhaler, they will be seen by the school nurse/ school doctor and parents/ guardians informed.)

Signed:

Name : (print).....(Parent/Guardian)

Date:

Appendix 2Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler use form for parents/guardians and copy for student file

Independent day and
boarding school for
boys and girls aged 3-18

EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE

Student name:

Year group/tutor:

Date/time:

This letter is to formally notify you that.....has had a problem with his/her breathing today.

This happened when

.....

(Tick action taken as appropriate)

A member of staff helped them to use their inhaler.

They did not have their own asthma inhaler with them, so a member of staff helped them use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given puffs.

Their own asthma inhaler wasn't working, so a member of staff helped them to use the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol. They were give puffs.

Although your son/daughter soon felt better, we would strongly advise that they are seen by your own doctor/asthma nurse as soon as possible.

Name:

Signature:

Appendix 3

INFORMATION AFTER USING THE EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER

- Complete the emergency salbutamol inhaler form
- Send a copy to parent/guardian and one to the Health Centre for medical records
- Record in the book provided the name of the student, date, time, number of puffs of inhaler used and action taken.
- To avoid risk of cross infection the spacer device should not be reused. It can be given to the child to take home for future personal use.
- The inhaler and mask, however, can usually be reused.
Take all used items to the Health Centre for sterilising.
If the Health Centre is closed, the canister should be removed and the plastic inhaler housing and cap should be washed in warm running water and left to dry in air in a clean safe place.
The canister should be returned to the housing when it is dry and cap replaced.
However, if there is a risk of any contamination with blood or body fluids (for example, if the inhaler has been used without a spacer) the inhaler should be disposed of via the Health Centre.
- Please report use of inhaler/ spacer to Health Centre as soon as possible so emergency pack is ready for future use.