



# Sidcot

Live Adventurously

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**Asthma Policy**

**Policy Number: 4.3**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

## Table of Contents

Page 3	<a href="#"><b>1: Aims</b></a>
Page 3	<a href="#"><b>2: Objectives</b></a>
Page 3	<a href="#"><b>3: Scope</b></a>
Page 3	<a href="#"><b>4: Education</b></a>
Page 3	<a href="#"><b>5: Environment</b></a>
Page 3	<a href="#"><b>6: Medication</b></a>
Page 4	<a href="#"><b>7: Record keeping</b></a>
Page 4	<a href="#"><b>8: Physical Education</b></a>
Page 4	<a href="#"><b>9: Asthma Attack</b></a>
Page 5	<a href="#"><b>10: After the attack</b></a>
Page 5	<a href="#"><b>11: References</b></a>
Page 5	<a href="#"><b>12: Emergency procedures</b></a>
Page 5	<a href="#"><b>12: Glossary</b></a>
Page 5	<a href="#"><b>12: Supporting Policies</b></a>
Page 5	<a href="#"><b>12: Policy Review</b></a>
Page 6	<a href="#"><b>Appendix 1 Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler use form</b></a>

## **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 are listed in the school Asthma Healthcare Plan.
- All boarding students with Asthma are reviewed by the GP / School Asthma nurse annually, or by students own medical practitioner from home.  
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 which is available on line..
- Children have the opportunity to learn about Asthma in Key Stages 1 + 2 of the National Curriculum

Students with a diagnosis of Asthma are included within the school asthma healthcare plan which is available to relevant staff on firefly, a full healthcare plan will be activated if specific care needs are identified as part of this condition (please refer to the Supporting students with medical conditions and disabilities policy).

## **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 is a non-smoking site.

- 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.

During the current Covid-19 pandemic social distancing and the wearing of face masks in communal areas outside of the classroom will continue along with regular hand washing/sanitising. Wearing a face mask should not exacerbate a student's asthma if their asthma is well managed.

## **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 or own medical practitioner from home 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 have received annual training and know what to do in the event of an Asthma Attack.

- Sit the student down and loosen any tight clothing.
- Offer the reliever inhaler and give 1 puff every 30 to 60 seconds up to 10 puffs.
- If you have a spacer device available then use it.
- If there is no improvement after 10 puffs or there is any deterioration with the child then call 999 for an ambulance.
- Call 999 again if the ambulance doesn't arrive after 15 minutes.
- Continue to stay calm and reassure the child.

If the student's own reliever inhaler isn't available, faulty or empty, and there is a consent from parents/guardians, administer the reliever inhaler from the Emergency Asthma Kit found in the staff room, sports

hall, junior school and health centre.

Parents/guardians are able to consent to use of the emergency salbutamol inhaler in school through the Annual Medical Consent. A list of students with consent can be found in the Emergency Asthma Kits.

All staff have attended Asthma training sessions annually are able to administer the Emergency inhaler.

If the emergency inhaler is used:

Parents/guardians must be informed. Complete 'Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler use form' for parents/guardians and pass on/or scan and send a copy to the school health centre ([Appendix 1](#)). Following use, the spacer device must be disposed of.

In view of the current Covid 19 situation the whole emergency asthma box must be taken to the health centre for cleaning/replacement of equipment.

The used kit will be thoroughly cleaned and returned to its location by the health centre staff as soon as possible. All staff need to be aware of where the other emergency inhaler kits are found if the health centre is closed.

The emergency inhaler kits will be checked half termly by the Health Centre staff.

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.

## **10. After an 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. References**

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

## **12. Supporting Policies**

2.1 Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

4.1 Medical Policy

4.2 Supporting Students with medical conditions, disabilities

## **13. 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.

**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.
12.09.2019	Reviewed, Appendix 1 and 3 removed – Parents now consent to use of the emergency salbutamol inhaler in school through Annual Medical Consent. Information re Appendix 3 in body of policy.
05.10.2019	Reviewed and adopted by Board at the Annual Safeguarding Review.

21.09.2020	Policy reviewed and addition of changes re COVID-19
05.11.2020	Reviewed and agreed by the Pastoral Group.

Appendix 1

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

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

**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: .....