

Shilbottle First School
Policy for the Management of Asthma

This policy is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies to deal with asthma at Shilbottle First School. The policy was developed during the spring 2005 through a process of consultation with staff. The governing body approved it in the spring term 2005. This policy will be reviewed every year. Reviewed January 2012

The school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils in school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma and we encourage all pupils to achieve their full potential in all aspects of school life.

What is Asthma?

Asthma is very common among children, there are 1.1 million children living with asthma in the UK. It is a disease that causes the airways of the lungs to tighten.

An asthma attack is when your lungs aren't getting enough air to breathe. The child might be having an asthma attack if he or she has:

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Coughing
- Feeling tight in the chest
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences
- Being unusually quiet

What causes Asthma Attacks?

Everyone has a trigger that may cause their symptoms to get worse these are things like;

- Mold
- Dust Mites
- Smoke
- Animals

During an Asthma attack the child will need to take their reliever inhaler. Although children can go days with no problems they must always take their preventative inhaler to keep them symptom free.

What to do if a child is having an asthma attack

- Keep calm
- Loosen tight clothing
- Get the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Do not hug the child or let them lie down
- Reassure the child

Call 999 or a doctor if:

- The symptoms do not improve in 5-10 minutes
- The child's lips are blue
- The child is too breathless that they can't talk
- Or if you are in any doubt

You must ensure that the child continues to take their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance or doctor arrives. NEVER leave a pupil having an asthma attack.

It is very important that you continue to give the reliever medication until help arrives. Under no circumstances should a member of staff transport a child to hospital in their own car as the child's condition could deteriorate very quickly.

We will ensure that all members of staff know how to deal with an asthma attack and that they are fully aware of how the medication should be administered. We will encourage children in class three & four to take their medication themselves but with adult supervision.

All parents will be asked to fill in a school asthma card when their child starts school and that they inform us of any changes so that a new card can be issued.