

**Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Academy Boundary Road Newark
NG24 4AU**



ASTHMA POLICY

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**POLICIES & PROCEDURES
DOCUMENT CONTROL SYSTEM**

Controlled Document reference:

Document Title: **ASTHMA POLICY**

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Holy Trinity Catholic Voluntary Academy

Mission Statement



“In every child there is a space only God can fill”

St Thomas Aquinas

At our school we continually strive to develop the full potential of the school community in an environment permeated by the Catholic Faith and promoting Gospel values.

At the heart of our mission is the family, school and parish, each supporting and working in mutual co-operation for the benefit of the children.

We are seeking to enrich the lives entrusted in our care through a broad and balanced curriculum designed to meet the needs of each pupil.

The school provides opportunities for young children to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, physically and emotionally, and share their qualities, abilities and ambitions thus fulfilling individual potential.

As a worshipping community we respect all people and create a loving, caring atmosphere which overflows into an ethos of warmth and welcome towards parents, parish and the local community

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

ASTHMA POLICY

AIMS:

To ensure the school creates a safe environment for children with Asthma.

To raise staff awareness about Asthma, its causes, symptoms and treatments.

EXPECTATIONS:

School will...

1. Hold a register of all children who suffer from Asthma. This will be updated annually and be provided for the relevant staff at the start of each year, or at a time when a child may be diagnosed during the school year, or joins Holy Trinity from another school.
2. Ensure that children's inhalers are kept securely in the school office and are easily accessible at all times.
3. Make sure all inhalers are always taken on school trips/swimming etc.
4. Ensure that all staff are familiar with the protocol for use of inhalers.

This will include:-

- Signs and symptoms of Asthma.
- Instructions for treatment.
- Monitoring of response to treatment.
- When to seek help (emergency services).
- How to seek help (dial 999).
- Notification of attacks to parents.
- Record keeping.
- Inhalers to be labelled.

Parents will...

1. Inform the school office staff that their child has diagnosed asthma – on entrance to school or as soon as the condition is diagnosed if it occurs at other points during their school life.
2. It is the responsibility of parents to inform school immediately that any circumstances change regarding their child's asthma, whether they are to change to stronger medication or whether they officially no longer require an inhaler. This should be done in writing for school records.
3. Ensure that their child has charged and working inhalers, within date and arrange for the prompt renewal when empty.
4. Ensure that their child has two reliever inhalers, a spare one to be kept at school (in an identified known safe place) and one to use at home.
5. Ensure all inhalers are clearly marked with their child's name.
6. Encourage self-medication, except for very young children or children with 'Special Needs'.

PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

What is Asthma?

This is a distressing condition in which the muscles of the air passages go into spasm and constrict, making breathing (particularly breathing out) very difficult. Asthma attacks can be triggered by an allergy or nervous tension. The majority of these drugs act to dilate the air passages, easing breathing. Teachers need not worry that a child may overdose on his/her medication – reliever medication will not be harmful however much is used – you cannot overdose on an inhaler.

Signs and Symptoms

There may be one or several of the following:-

- Difficulty in breathing, with a markedly prolonged breathing-out phase.
- Tightness of chest.
- Wheezing as she/he breathes out.
- Distress and anxiety – she/he may only speak in whispers and with difficulty.
- Blueness of the skin.

TREATMENT

Your aim is:

To ease breathing. To seek medical aid if necessary.

1. Ensure reliever inhaler (usually blue) medication is taken (this should quickly open up narrowed air passages).
2. Reassure and calm the child.
 - DO NOT LIE THE CHILD ON HER/HIS BACK. Sit her/him down, leaning slightly forward and resting on a support.
 - DO NOT PUT YOUR ARM AROUND THE CHILD'S SHOULDER as this is very restrictive – but hold her/his hand for comfort.
3. Encourage the child to breathe slowly and deeply.
 - Loosen tight clothing around the neck and offer a warm drink.

After the attack

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement the curriculum. As soon as they feel better they can return to school activities.

CALL AN AMBULANCE IF:-

- The reliever has no effect after 5-10 minutes.
- The child is distressed or unable to talk.
- The child is getting exhausted.

FOR EMERGENCY USE ONLY: The school holds two inhaler kits for emergency use only, which are stored in the school's medical cabinet. In the event of these being needed, parental permission should be sought beforehand. Should this not be possible, medical advice should be sought prior to use.