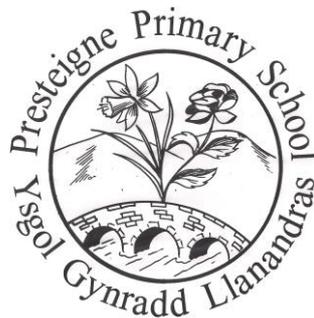


# Emergency Inhaler Policy



**March 2016**

**This Policy was adopted by the Governors of Presteigne Primary School in  
March 2016  
Updated September 2017**

**Signed:.....(Chair of Governors)**

## **Introduction**

Following agreement by the UK Government and Welsh Government, an amendment to the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 allows schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies from 1 October 2014.

The emergency inhaler can be used if the child or young person's prescribed inhaler is not available, for example because it is broken or empty, and should only be used by children or young people who

- have been diagnosed with asthma, and prescribed a reliever inhaler; OR
- who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler;

AND for whom the written parent/carer consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been received.

The Governing Body of Presteigne Primary School has taken the decision to hold Salbutamol inhalers and this policy covers their management.

## **Register of Asthmatics**

The School will hold a list of all pupils who have been diagnosed with asthma and / or have been prescribed a reliever inhaler. This list will be held with the inhalers and will be reviewed on an annual basis or as information becomes available. This list is only as accurate as the information received from parents / carers.

## **Recognising Asthma**

Common 'day to day' symptoms of asthma may include:

- Cough and wheeze (a 'whistle' heard on breathing out) when exercising
- Shortness of breath when exercising
- Intermittent cough

These symptoms are usually responsive to use of the child or young person's own inhaler and rest (e.g. stopping exercise). They would not usually require to be sent home from school or need urgent medical attention.

However, if a child or young person is displaying the early signs of an asthma attack they should be treated according to their individual health care plan where possible, and the Asthma Attack Procedure (Appendix 1) should be followed. If a

spacer is used, the child can take it home with them (to avoid the possible risk of cross-infection, the spacer should not be reused by the school) and the school will obtain a new spacer promptly.

Early signs of an asthma attack may include:

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- A wheezing (whistling) sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort)
- Nasal flaring (the nostrils move with breathing)
- Unable to talk or complete sentences
- May try to tell you that their chest 'feels tight' (younger children may express this as tummy ache)
- Being unusually quiet

An ambulance and parents/carers will be called immediately if the child or young person is:

- Exhausted
- Too breathless to speak
- Going blue/has a blue or white tinge around lips
- Collapsed
- Not showing sufficient improvement in symptoms after 5-10 minutes

**To note:** a child or young person may be prescribed a different reliever inhaler to salbutamol e.g. terbutaline. The salbutamol inhaler should still be used if their own inhaler is not accessible – it will help to relieve their asthma and could save their life.

The procedure in Appendix 1 summarises what to do

## **Parental Consent**

As with all types of medicine, parental consent will be sought for use of an emergency inhaler. The letter template in Appendix 2 will be used and a record of this consent included in the register of asthmatics. Parental consent will be sought:-

- when a child is registered at the school and the registration card states that the child has asthma;
- routinely, thereafter, at the start of a new academic year;
- during the year, if staff or parents notice that a child is presenting the symptoms of asthma.

No action will be taken by the school without parental consent being sought.

## **Supply, Storage and Care of Emergency Inhalers**

The school has purchased 2 salbutamol inhalers and 2 spacers.

The inhalers will be stored with the **first aid equipment (in staff room)** and their expiry dates will be checked on a monthly basis by school administrator to ensure they are within date. Inhalers that are empty or beyond their use by date will be disposed of by returning them to the pharmacy.

Current expiry dates- 07/2019

### **Training**

All staff will be made aware of

- the signs and symptoms of an asthma attack
- the emergency inhaler policy
- how to check if a child is on the asthma register
- how to access the inhaler
- who the designated members of staff are

Those staff who volunteer to either supervise the administration of the emergency inhaler or administer the emergency inhaler will be provided with training via the Asthma UK video clips on using metered-dose inhalers and spacers at <http://www.asthma.org.uk/knowledge-bank-treatment-and-medicines-using-your-inhalers> Further advice will be sought from the School Nurse.

The designated members of staff who will supervise the administration of the emergency inhaler will be the headteacher / assistant headteacher with the child's classteacher.

In an emergency, all members of staff will be able to administer an asthma inhaler.

Any member of staff who administers an asthma inhaler as directed and for the benefit of a child will be covered by the employers' indemnity.

## **Record of use**

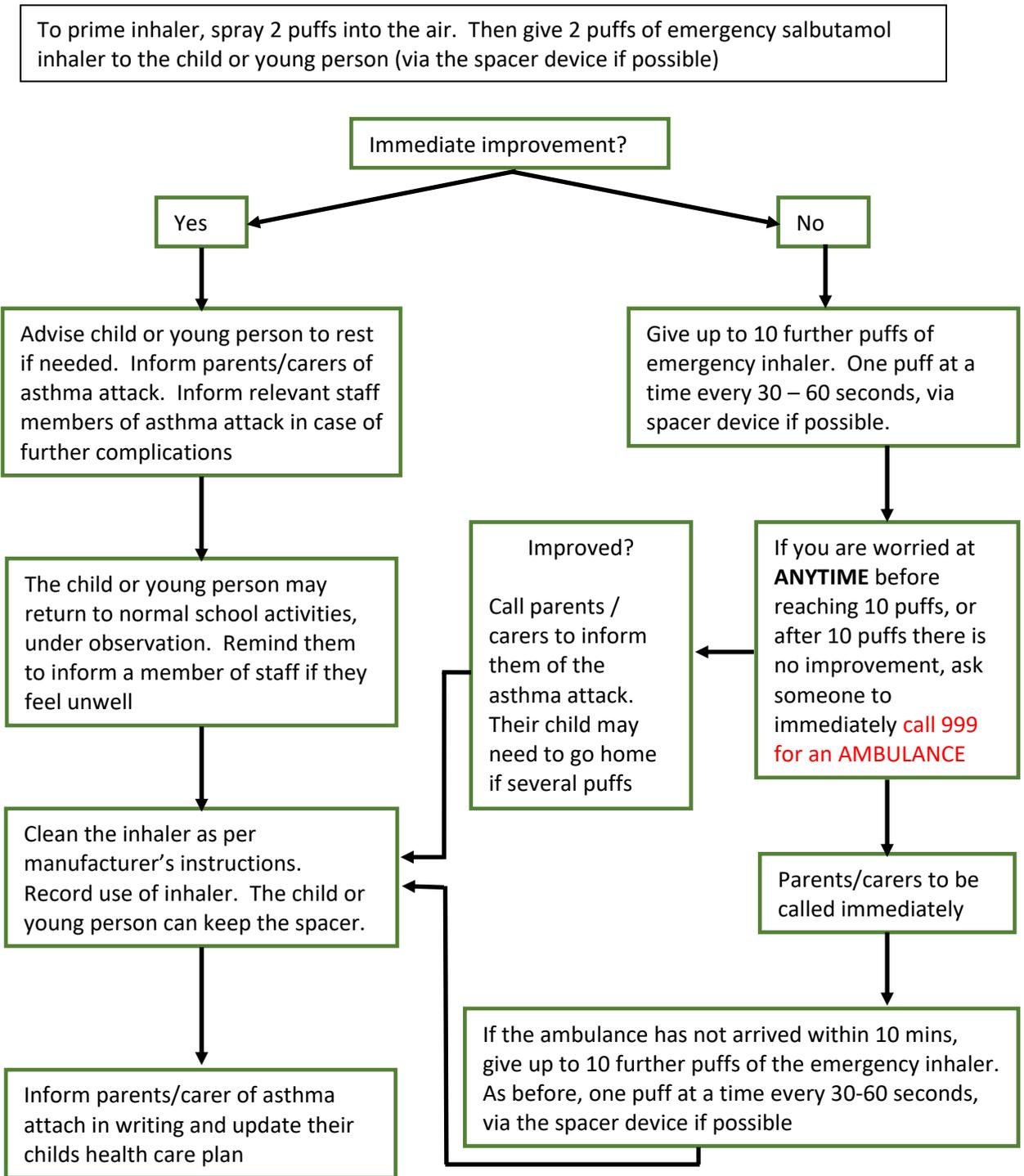
Every time an emergency inhaler is used, this will be recorded and the parents/carer of the child informed; a template letter is included in Appendix 3. The record of use is kept with the emergency inhaler.

## **Educational Visits**

When children who have either been diagnosed as asthmatic, or prescribed a reliever inhaler are attending an educational visit, the group will carry an emergency inhaler. On returning to school, any record of use will be made and parents informed. If the attack is more serious, parents will be informed immediately.

**Asthma Attack Procedure**

- Keep calm and reassure the child or young person, and do not leave them alone
- Encourage them to sit up and slightly forward, and to take slow steady breaths
- Use their inhaler, or if unavailable, stay with them whilst the emergency inhaler kit is brought to you. Check consent in the asthma register. Use the inhaler, as below:



**To note:** a child or young person may be prescribed a difference reliever inhaler to salbutamol, e.g. terbutaline. The salbutamol inhaler should still be used if their own inhaler is not accessible – it will help to relieve their asthma and could save their life.

**CONSENT FORM:  
USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER  
Presteigne Primary School**

**Child or young person showing symptoms of asthma / having asthma attack**

Child's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 I confirm my child has been diagnosed with asthma / has been prescribed an inhaler (please delete as appropriate).
- 2 My child will have a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which they will bring with them to school every day.
- 3 In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or unusable, I consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

You may wish to discuss this form with your child.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/carer full name \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Home/work telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/carer address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Doctor's name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Doctor's telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Doctor's address \_\_\_\_\_

# Letter to Inform Parents / Carers of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler Use

Childs Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

This letter is to notify you that \_\_\_\_\_ has had problems with their breathing today. This happened when:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**[Please delete as appropriate]**

A member of staff helped them to use their own asthma inhaler

**OR**

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

**OR**

Their own asthma inhaler was not working, so a member of staff helped them to use the schools emergency inhaler containing salbutamol. They were given \_\_\_\_\_puffs

We strongly advise that you pass this information on to your doctor as soon as possible to see whether your child needs further medical assessment

Yours sincerely

