



Asthma in School Policy

Signed by headteacher: *A Hughes*

Signed by Chair of Governors: *David Bradley*


Date of Approval: March 2026


Date for review: March 2028





Asthma in School Policy


AI Generated Summary

 Our aim is to ensure pupils with asthma are safe, supported and able to take part fully in all aspects of school life, including lessons, PE, trips and clubs.


 We work closely with parents/carers, healthcare professionals and the school nurse to understand each pupil's needs and provide effective support.


 Pupils with asthma have a Personal Asthma Action Plan / Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) explaining symptoms, triggers, medication and emergency actions.


 Pupils have immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times, and the school also holds a spare emergency salbutamol inhaler with parental consent.


 Staff receive regular training on recognising asthma symptoms, responding to asthma attacks and using inhalers correctly.

 Pupils are encouraged and supported to manage their asthma where appropriate and to report symptoms promptly.

 In an asthma emergency, staff remain with the pupil, help them use their inhaler, call 999 when required and inform parents/carers.

 Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate in PE, sports and physical activities, with warm-ups, rest breaks and adjustments provided when needed.

 The school follows legal guidance to ensure pupils with asthma are not discriminated against and can access education safely.

 The policy is monitored by the headteacher and reviewed annually by the governing board.

1. Policy statement

Bitterne Manor Primary School recognises that asthma is a serious but controllable condition and welcomes all pupils with asthma.

The school ensures that pupils with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life, including physical education, visits, field trips and other out-of-school activities.

The school recognises that pupils with asthma require immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.

Bitterne Manor Primary School will:

- Keep a register of pupils with asthma and their medical needs.
- Maintain Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) / Personal Asthma Action Plans for pupils with asthma.
- Ensure staff know how to recognise and respond to asthma symptoms.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers, healthcare professionals and outside agencies.
- Promote an inclusive environment that enables pupils with asthma to achieve their full potential.

2. Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to the following legislation and statutory guidance:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- DfE: Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (current statutory guidance)
- DfE: Guidance on the Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

This policy operates alongside:

- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Complaints Policy

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- Ensure the health, safety and welfare of pupils and staff.
- Ensure this policy does not discriminate under the Equality Act 2010.
- Approve and review this policy annually.
- Handle complaints in line with the Complaints Policy.
- Ensure that staff who agree to administer medication are appropriately trained and that adequate employer-provided indemnity/insurance is in place.

Headteacher

- Ensure implementation and communication of this policy.
- Ensure staff receive appropriate training.
- Ensure IHPs are in place.
- Ensure emergency inhalers are available and maintained.
- Appoint a designated member of staff to manage the asthma register and check expiry dates.
- Monitor effectiveness of this policy.

All School Staff

- Read and follow this policy.
- Know which pupils have asthma.
- Allow immediate access to inhalers.
- Know emergency procedures.
- Only administer medication in line with training and school procedures.
- Inform parents if a pupil has an asthma attack.
- Inform parents if inhaler use increases.
- Ensure medication is taken on trips and visits.
- Be aware pupils may experience fatigue.
- Challenge asthma-related bullying.
- Liaise with parents, SENCO and school nurse if asthma affects learning.

PE Staff

- Understand asthma and its impact.
- Never force participation when a pupil feels unwell.
- Encourage participation when asthma is well controlled.
- Ensure inhalers are present during activity.
- Allow rest breaks.
- Encourage pre-exercise inhaler use where advised.
- Ensure warm-ups and cool-downs.

School Nurse

- Support creation and review of IHPs.
- Provide training where available.

Pupils with Asthma

- Tell an adult if unwell.
- Use inhalers correctly.
- Treat medication responsibly.
- Know where their inhaler is stored.

Other Pupils

- Treat pupils with asthma with respect.
- Alert staff if someone is having difficulty breathing.

Parents/Carers

- Inform school if their child has asthma.
- Provide a Personal Asthma Action Plan.
- Provide labelled, in-date inhalers and spacers.
- Provide a spare inhaler.
- Inform school of changes.
- Ensure regular medical reviews.
- Ensure emergency contact details are up to date.

4. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

All pupils with asthma will have an IHP which includes:

- Triggers.
- Symptoms.
- Medication and dosage.
- Storage location.
- Emergency actions.

Plans are:

- Developed with parents and healthcare professionals.
- Reviewed annually or when needs change.
- Shared with relevant staff.

5. Asthma Register

The school maintains an asthma register containing:

- Pupil name and class.
- Medication details.
- Location of inhalers.
- Emergency contacts.

Parents must notify school of changes immediately.

6. Asthma Medicines

- Inhalers are provided by parents.
- Inhalers must be clearly labelled.
- A spare inhaler must be supplied.
- Inhalers are stored in classroom medical boxes or carried by pupils where appropriate.
- Pupils may self-administer under supervision.
- There is no legal duty for staff to administer medication. In emergencies, staff may assist pupils in using their inhaler. Any staff who agree to administer medication will have received appropriate training and will be covered by the school's employer-provided indemnity/insurance.

Preventer inhalers are rarely required in school. If required, arrangements will be agreed with parents.

7. Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

The school holds a spare emergency salbutamol inhaler.

- Used only for pupils with parental consent.
- Used only for pupils diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever.
- Stored in reception in a medical box.

- Stored according to manufacturer's instructions.
- Expiry dates checked regularly.
- Spacers are single-use or given to pupil.

After use:

- Incident recorded.
- Parents informed.
- Inhaler cleaned or replaced.

Relevant staff receive training.

8. Recognising an Asthma Attack

Symptoms may include:

- Persistent cough.
- Wheezing.
- Shortness of breath.
- Chest tightness.
- Difficulty speaking.
- Unusual quietness.
- Nasal flaring.

Younger pupils may say their chest or tummy hurts.

9. Response to an Asthma Attack

- Stay calm.
- Sit pupil upright and leaning forward.
- Do not leave the pupil alone.
- Give 2 puffs of reliever via spacer.
- Reassure pupil.
- Loosen tight clothing.

If no improvement:

- Give 2 puffs every 2 minutes up to 10 puffs.

If no improvement after 10 puffs:

- Call 999.

Call 999 immediately if:

- Pupil is struggling to talk.
- Pupil looks blue.
- Pupil collapses.
- You are unsure.
- If ambulance delayed:
 - Continue 2 puffs every 2 minutes up to another 10 puffs.

10. In an Emergency

- A staff member stays with pupil.
- Another staff member calls 999.
- Parents contacted.
- Staff accompany pupil to hospital.
- Staff do not normally transport pupils by car unless absolutely necessary and accompanied.

11. Educational Visits

- Risk assessments completed.
- Medication taken.
- Trained staff present.
- Pupils encouraged to participate.

12. Exercise and Physical Activity

- Pupils encouraged to take part.
- Inhalers available during activity.
- Warm-ups and cool-downs provided.
- Rest allowed.

13. School Environment

The school aims to reduce asthma triggers by:

- Avoiding strong chemicals where possible.
- Ensuring good ventilation.
- Supporting pupils if triggers are unavoidable.

14. Record Keeping

- All asthma incidents recorded.
- Medication administration recorded.
- Registers kept up to date.

15. Bullying

Asthma-related bullying is unacceptable and dealt with under the Behaviour Policy.

16. Monitoring and Review

This policy is reviewed on an annual basis by the governing board and headteacher. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to all staff, parents and relevant stakeholders.

Next scheduled review date: March 2028