

Asthma Policy



SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School



Approved by:	Governing Body	Date: 29 th September 2026
Last reviewed on:	New Policy	
Next review due by:	September 2027	

1. Policy Statement

SS Peter & Paul School is committed to providing a fully inclusive environment that supports pupils with asthma and enables them to participate safely and confidently in all aspects of school life.

The school recognises that asthma is a common, serious and potentially life-threatening medical condition. We aim to ensure that all pupils with asthma receive appropriate support so that they can achieve their full educational potential and participate in school activities safely.

The school will:

- Support and welcome pupils with asthma.
- Ensure staff understand their duty of care and know how to respond to asthma emergencies.
- Promote self-management of asthma where appropriate.
- Ensure pupils have immediate access to their prescribed reliever inhalers.
- Maintain accurate records and Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs).
- Work in partnership with parents, healthcare professionals and pupils.
- Follow current Department for Education (DfE), NHS and local authority guidance regarding supporting pupils with medical conditions.

2. Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Safeguard the health and wellbeing of pupils with asthma.
- Ensure asthma does not prevent pupils from accessing education or participating in school activities.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of staff, parents, governors and healthcare professionals.
- Provide clear procedures for managing medication and asthma emergencies.
- Promote awareness and understanding of asthma throughout the school community.

3. Legal Framework

This policy is informed by:

- Children and Families Act 2014.
- Equality Act 2010.
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE).
- SEND Code of Practice.

- Human Medicines Regulations 2014 (as amended).
- Statutory Guidance on the Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhalers in Schools.

4. Understanding Asthma

Asthma is a long-term inflammatory condition affecting the airways.

Common asthma symptoms include:

- Coughing.
- Wheezing.
- Breathlessness.
- Chest tightness.
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences.

Common triggers may include:

- Exercise.
- Viral infections.
- Pollen and seasonal allergies.
- Animal fur.
- Dust and dust mites.
- Smoke and vaping.
- Cold air.
- Air pollution.
- Emotional stress.

Every child experiences asthma differently and support arrangements will be individualised.

5. Inclusion and Equal Access

SS Peter & Paul School is committed to ensuring pupils with asthma:

- Are fully included in all educational, social and sporting activities.
- Are not disadvantaged because of their medical condition.
- Have equal access to off-site visits, residential visits, clubs and extracurricular activities.
- Receive any reasonable adjustments necessary under the Equality Act 2010.

No pupil will be excluded from participation because of asthma unless medical advice indicates this is necessary.

6. Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan will normally be developed for pupils whose asthma requires additional support.

The plan will include:

- Diagnosis and medical information.
- Known triggers.
- Current medication.
- Signs of deterioration.
- Emergency procedures.
- Contact details.
- Details of self-management arrangements.
- Consent for emergency treatment.

Healthcare plans will be:

- Completed in partnership with parents and healthcare professionals.
- Reviewed annually.
- Updated when a pupil's needs change.
- Shared with relevant staff on a need-to-know basis.

7. Asthma Register

The school will maintain an up-to-date Asthma Register containing:

- Name of pupil.
- Class.
- Medication information.
- Healthcare Plan location.
- Emergency contacts.

The designated Asthma Lead will review the register regularly and ensure information remains accurate.

8. Medication

Reliever Inhalers

Pupils must have immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times.

Depending on age and capability:

- Pupils may carry their own inhaler.
- Inhalers may be stored in a clearly identified, accessible location.
- Staff must know where inhalers are located.

Parents are responsible for ensuring:

- Medication is in date.
- Medication is clearly labelled.
- Replacement medication is provided when required.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

The school may hold an emergency salbutamol inhaler in accordance with current government guidance.

The emergency inhaler may be used if:

- Written parental consent has been obtained.
- The pupil has been diagnosed with asthma.
- Their prescribed inhaler is not available or is ineffective.

The emergency inhaler will be:

- Stored securely but readily accessible.
- Monitored for expiry dates.
- Used only by trained members of staff.

9. Storage of Medication

General Principles

All medicines will:

- Be stored in accordance with manufacturer instructions.
- Be clearly labelled.
- Remain accessible in an emergency.

Emergency Medicines

Emergency asthma medication must be:

- Easily accessible.
- Available at all school activities.
- Taken on educational visits and sporting events.

Expiry Checks

The Asthma Lead will:

- Check medication expiries at least termly.
- Inform parents when replacement medication is required.
- Record checks appropriately.

10. Physical Education and Sporting Activities

Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE and sports activities.

Staff will:

- Allow access to inhalers before, during and after exercise.
- Be aware of exercise-related asthma triggers.
- Monitor symptoms during activities.
- Adapt activities where appropriate.
- Never force a child to continue if they are experiencing symptoms.

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- Use preventative medication as prescribed.
- Inform an adult if symptoms occur.
- Warm up and cool down appropriately.

11. Educational Visits and Residential Trips

Risk assessments will specifically consider pupils with asthma.

Staff organising visits will ensure:

- Medication accompanies pupils at all times.
- Appropriate staff understand emergency procedures.
- Healthcare Plans are available.
- Emergency contact details are accessible.
- Additional arrangements are put in place for residential visits where necessary.

No pupil will be excluded from a visit solely because they have asthma.

12. Asthma Emergencies

Signs of an Asthma Attack

A child may:

- Cough continuously.
- Wheeze.
- Have difficulty breathing.
- Struggle to speak.
- Complain of chest tightness.
- Become pale or distressed.

Emergency Response

If a pupil develops asthma symptoms:

1. Keep the pupil calm.
2. Help them sit upright.
3. Ensure access to their reliever inhaler.
4. Help them take:
 - One puff every 30 to 60 seconds.
 - Up to 10 puffs through a spacer if available.
5. Monitor their condition closely.

Call 999 Immediately If:

- Symptoms worsen.
- There is no improvement after 10 puffs.
- The pupil becomes exhausted.
- The pupil cannot speak or breathe properly.
- The inhaler is unavailable and symptoms are severe.
- Staff are unsure about the severity of the attack.

Parents will be informed immediately following any asthma emergency.

A member of staff will accompany the pupil to hospital and remain with them until a parent or carer arrives.

13. Staff Training

The school will ensure:

- All staff receive asthma awareness training at least annually.
- New staff receive induction training.
- Supply staff are informed of pupils with asthma.
- Relevant staff receive training on emergency procedures and medication administration.

Training records will be maintained by the school.

14. Record Keeping

The school will maintain:

- Asthma Register.
- Individual Healthcare Plans.
- Consent forms.
- Medicine administration records.
- Emergency incident records.
- Staff training records.

Records will be stored securely in accordance with data protection requirements.

15. Confidentiality and Data Protection

The school will:

- Handle medical information in accordance with UK GDPR and Data Protection legislation.
- Share information only with staff who need it to support the pupil safely.
- Obtain parental consent before sharing information externally, except where safeguarding or emergency medical treatment requires otherwise.

16. Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure appropriate policies are in place.
- Monitor implementation.
- Ensure sufficient resources are available.

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Implement this policy.
- Ensure staff training is provided.
- Ensure procedures are followed.
- Monitor policy effectiveness.

Designated Asthma Lead

The Asthma Lead will:

- Maintain the Asthma Register.
- Coordinate Healthcare Plans.
- Monitor medication expiry dates.
- Liaise with parents and healthcare professionals.

School Staff

All staff will:

- Understand this policy.
- Recognise asthma symptoms.
- Know how to respond to emergencies.
- Support inclusion.

Parents and Carers

Parents will:

- Notify the school of asthma diagnoses.
- Provide medication and healthcare information.
- Ensure medication remains in date.
- Inform school of any changes in treatment.

Pupils

Pupils will be encouraged to:

- Understand their condition.
- Carry and use medication responsibly where appropriate.
- Inform staff when symptoms occur.
- Take increasing responsibility for managing their asthma as they mature.

17. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Headteacher and Governing Body or earlier if:

- Guidance or legislation changes.
- An incident highlights the need for review.
- Changes occur in school procedures.

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Incident reviews.
- Staff feedback.
- Parent and pupil feedback.
- Training records.
- Healthcare Plan audits.