

William Austin Infant School

Asthma Policy

March 2025

Background

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Children and Families, Asthma UK, the local authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents/carers, the governing body and pupils.

This school recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. The school positively welcomes all pupils with asthma. This school encourages pupils with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, their employers (Luton Borough Council) and pupils. The school's Medical Room staff requests advice and training from the School Nursing Service in order to assist staff as required.

Asthma medicines

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Children in our school are not yet mature enough to carry their reliever medicines with them. The reliever inhalers are kept in the medical room in a cupboard that is unlocked but above the height of the children, to allow speedy and safe access by staff.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a prescribed spare reliever Inhaler and a spacer. All inhalers and spacers must be labelled with the child's name. School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to. Preventative medication is not used in school as advised by the School Asthma Nurse.

Inhalers and spacers are taken on all educational visits off school premises.

The school have emergency inhalers for use in school should a child's prescribed inhaler fail or run out. Written permission to use the emergency inhaler must be sought from parents at the same as prescribed inhalers are handed in. The school will add the name to the Emergency Inhaler Register.

Record keeping

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their admission form.

When parents supply school with asthma medication for their child, they are required to fill in a permission/record form, which details their child's name and class, the name of the medication, expiry date, dosage and frequency of administration, the date medication was received in school and any other necessary information. The form is then signed by the parent/carer and the member of medical room staff accepting the medication into school.

Each time the medication is administered in school, the date, time and dosage are recorded on the form and the form is initialed by the member of staff that administered it. Parents receive a green slip (Appendix A) advising them that their child has had their inhaler in school; it includes the times and dosage. All children in school with asthma also have an Individual Care Plan (Appendix B) which is kept in the Asthma register in the Medical Room. This plan is completed by the parent and details information regarding their child's medical needs in relation to their asthma.

Exercise and activity – PE and games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma from the medical information sheet given to each class.

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to go to the medical room to do so. If required, a 'send help' card will be taken by another pupil to alert the medical room staff to come to the child.

Classroom teachers follow the same principles as described above for games and activities involving physical activity. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. (Resources available from Asthma UK)

Out-of-hours sport and other activities

There has been a large emphasis in recent years on increasing the number of children and young people involved in exercise and sport in and outside of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children with asthma. It is therefore important that the school involve pupils with asthma as much as possible in after school clubs. Classroom teachers and out-of hours school sport coaches are aware of the potential triggers for pupils with asthma when exercising, tips to minimise these triggers and what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

This information is also provided on the Asthma UK *Out There & Active* poster, which is displayed in several locations around the school. The poster helps to encourage pupils with asthma to be active and get more involved in PE and exercise and has tips to help them do this.

School environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school does not keep furry or feathery animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma. Pupils with asthma are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in the medical room if anything triggers their asthma.

Making the school asthma-friendly

The school ensures that all pupils understand asthma. Asthma is included in the National Curriculum Key Stage 1, e.g. in Science and in PSHE work on safe use of medicines.

When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or is always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the teacher and / or Family Worker will initially talk to the parents/carers to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. If appropriate, the teacher will then talk to the Medical Room staff, Family Workers, Inclusion Manager and sometimes the school nurse about the pupil's needs. The school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special education needs due to their asthma. A Care Plan or Individual Education Plan will be drawn up if required.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. In the event of an asthma attack the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK in its *School Asthma Pack*. This procedure is visibly displayed in the staffroom (see page 2 and 3 of *Asthma Awareness for School Staff*).

March 2025

Review date March 2027

Individual Healthcare Plan

Name of School:	William Austin Infant School, Culverhouse Road, Luton, LU3 1PZ		
Child's name:			
Class:			
Date of Birth:			
Child's address:			
Medical diagnosis or condition:			
Date:		Review date:	

Family Contact Information

Contact name:			
Phone numbers	Home	Mobile	Work

Doctor

Name			
Address and phone number			

Clinic /Hospital Contact (if applicable)

Name:			
Phone number:			

Who is responsible for providing support in school:			
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Please detail the triggers to your medical needs e.g. animal hair, hayfever etc.			
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Name of medication and dose / frequency:			
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Daily care requirements:			
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Arrangements for school visits / trips:	School to take medication provided and administer in line with Individual Healthcare Plan		
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Other information relevant to the care of this medical condition:			
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Plan completed by	(parent / carer please sign)		
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Plan reviewed and agreed in school by:	(School to sign)		
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Appendix B



William Austin Infant School
Culverhouse Road
Luton
LU3 1PZ

Telephone: (01582) 595198
Fax: (01582) 595198

e-mail: office@williamaustininfants.co.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Kang B.Ed (Hons)

Date: Class:

To the parent/carer of:

I would like to inform you that your child needed their inhaler today.

They had puffs at

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Kang
Headteacher

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