



# Edgar Stammers Primary Academy

## Asthma

### Policy and Procedure

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# Asthma Policy and Procedure

Edgar Stammers Primary Academy recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and the school welcomes all children with asthma. We have many children at Edgar Stammers with asthma.

We ensure that children with asthma can and do fully participate in all aspects of school life, including art lessons, PE, science, visits, outings or field trips and other out-of-hours school activities.

Edgar Stammers will do all it can to make sure that the academy environment is favourable to children suffering from asthma.

## ***The aims of this policy are:***

- to ensure the safety of all children at Edgar Stammers Primary Academy who suffer from asthma now, or who may develop asthma in the future;
- to set out, in detail, the emergency procedures adopted by this academy in the event of any child suffering an asthma attack, whether mild or acute;
- to make clear to all concerned what is expected of this policy; • to make clear details concerning the storage and use of inhalers;
- to ensure that all children understand asthma so that they can support their friends, and so that children with asthma can avoid the stigma that is sometimes attached to this condition;
- to work in partnership with parents, school governors, health professionals, academy staff and children, to ensure the successful implementation of the academy asthma policy.

Edgar Stammers operates a no smoking policy throughout the buildings and grounds, so that no child, whether an asthma sufferer or not, is exposed to the dangers of passive smoking.

**Known common triggers are:**

- Allergens i.e. dust, pollen etc.
- Vigorous exercise
- Cold weather or strong winds
- Excitement or prolonged laughter
- Cigarette smoke

It is not possible to avoid all triggers at all times. It is important for the whole academy community to be aware of these and take extra care, noting that some triggers can be seasonal.

## **Parent/carer responsibility**

Parents/carers will be responsible for ensuring that there is sufficient medicine to be administered and that it is within the expiry date.

Medication should be provided in the original container from the pharmacy and clearly labelled with:

- child's name;
- name of medication;
- dose;
- method/time/frequency of administration;
- expiry date.

Medication must be collected by parents/carers:

- on completion of a course of treatment;
- if the medicine passes its expiry date.

Parents/carers of children who have regular or emergency medication in school are responsible for checking expiry dates, providing replacement treatments and disposing of out of date items.

Parent/carers of newly diagnosed asthma sufferers should advise the academy immediately so that records can be updated. Parents/carers should also advise of their child's common triggers if known.

## **Types of medication**

There are two types of treatment, both of which come in the form of an inhaler.

1. Preventer: Usually taken daily to make the airways less sensitive to triggers, mostly in either a brown or white container. These are normally used at home in the morning and evening and take approximately two weeks to take effect when first used. Medication needs to be taken daily to ensure that treatment continues successfully. These inhalers are not commonly found in school.

2. Relievers Also known as a bronchodilator. These quickly open up narrowed airways, helping the child to breath more easily, generally in a blue container, these are frequently found in use in school. These inhalers are crucial for the successful management of asthma, delay in taking the reliever, even for a few minutes can lead to a severe attack. Both types of inhaler can be used with a spacer (volumiser), particularly for young children. This is a cylindrical plastic chamber: the inhaler fits in one end and the child breathes through the other, having first activated the inhaler.

## **Asthma inhalers**

Asthma inhalers will not be locked away and will be accessible at all times. They will be clearly marked with the name of the child and kept in a labelled container within the child's classroom. During break and lunch times, the labelled class container will be taken outside by the asthma box monitor.

## **Misuse of medication**

Should an asthmatic child take too much medication by mistake, they may experience dizziness. The child will be monitored by a member of staff. A non-asthmatic child should not have access to medication related to asthma. In such an event, should a non-asthmatic child use an inhaler, they may experience dizziness. The child will be monitored by a member of staff.

## **Staff responsibility**

To make the academy as asthma friendly as possible staff should:

- Ensure accessibility to medication at all times, and ensure that each individual child knows where his/her inhaler is kept.
- Keep a record of when the child has received their inhaler and the amount that they have had.
- Be aware of the child's condition and any limitations and triggers, and be prepared to try to eliminate these if possible. Triggers may be seasonal, and this should be born in mind.
- Each classroom teacher should decide on his/her strategy should an attack occur in class i.e. how to summon help, how to deal with an attack, know where the inhaler is kept and how to use this in an emergency situation.
- All inhalers to be checked regularly and parents advised if these need changing or topping up. • To ensure that all medication is taken on school trips.
- To know and understand the different types of inhalers and how to use them.
- To know the school emergency procedures in calling for medical help i.e. dialling 999.
- Be prepared and able to help younger children, or those newly diagnosed, with the use of inhalers and spacers, if necessary.
- To raise a concern if a child seems wheezy, particularly after exercise, as some asthma is only exercise induced.
- To liaise with school nurse/parents if necessary to provide the best possible care for all asthmatic children.
- To attend appropriate training/INSET to keep up to date with information. Staff complete asthma training every two years.
- To send all medication home at the end of the school year to enable parents to check and renew if necessary.
- Keep up to date records for each child suffering from asthma, thus ensuring that any supply staff will know of any child with this condition.

## **Staff training**

All teaching staff will receive medical needs training as recommended by Walsall School Nurses. Asthma training will be completed every two years.

### **Involving children who have asthma in sport and exercise**

The aim is full participation and this should be our goal for all. When severely affected with asthma, the child should be allowed to participate to his/her potential, being allowed to rest when necessary.

Most children with asthma can become wheezy during exercise – ensuring that they take a dose of the reliever can help prevent an exercised induced asthma attack.

The academy make sure that all people involved in P.E are aware of the needs of children with asthma. Opportunity will be given for an asthmatic child to use their medication prior to taking part in sport. Where children wish to use medication away from their peers, provision will be made.

All children who need medication will take it with them on sports activities both outside and inside the academy buildings.

Any child who feels unable take part or continue will be allowed to take their reliever inhaler, and rest until they feel better and able to continue. If resting does not relieve the situation after 5-10 minutes then the site first aider should be called.

### **Emergency services**

If a child or member of staff has a serious medical emergency, or if someone has a serious accident, immediate hospital treatment may be required. For urgent cases, an ambulance will be called for immediately. For less urgent cases, a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will be called to evaluate whether the parent/carer will be called to take them to hospital or if it is necessary to call an ambulance. Any child taken to hospital without a parent/carer present will be accompanied by a member of the SLT and their parents/carers notified as soon as possible.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

In the event of an asthma attack:-

- It is most important to keep calm
- Summon adult help, ideally named first aider
- Reassure child
- Loosen clothing at neck, ensure child leans forward slightly
- Ensure that the child is not too hot/cold or in a draught but make sure that there is sufficient air.
- Do not crowd, keep other children calm, reassuring them that everything is under control.
- Allow child to administer normal dose of the child's reliever, an adult may have to help with this. In an emergency a spacer can be used.
- Stay with the child at all times NEVER leave them alone
- Check for signs of synosis (i.e. blueness at lips)
- If no improvement after 5 minutes – give dose again, if the child cannot speak or is still very breathless then dial 999 or 112.
- If in any doubt, or if you have any concerns then dial 999. • Notify parents of action taken • Be prepared to resuscitate if necessary.
- If the child is a severe asthmatic then get someone to dial 999 immediately, continuing treatment until help arrives.
- A dose of reliever can be “puffed” into the spacer which is then held vertically so that the child can take in the medication more easily.

## **Liability and Indemnity**

Edgar Stammers Primary Academy adhere to the DfE's statutory guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions', 2015 and Walsall Council/Walsall Public Health Guidance.

## **Complaints**

Any parent/carer that has a complaint against the academy in the treatment or procedure of medical treatment should follow the guidelines for complaints set out in the academy Complaints Policy.

**Further Advice and Support:** <https://www.asthma.org.uk/>



## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

### **REQUEST FOR AMBULANCE TO:**

Edgar Stammers Primary Academy  
Harden Road  
Walsall  
WS3 1RQ

Dial 999 or 112, ask for an ambulance and be ready with the following information:

1. The academy telephone number – 01922 471 390
2. Location as:

Edgar Stammers Primary Academy

Harden Road

Walsall

WS3 1RQ

3. Exact location of child/staff member in school
4. Your name
5. Inform ambulance control of the best entrance and state that the crew will be met at the front door and taken to the casualty.

**SPEAK CLEARLY AND SLOWLY AND BE PREPARED TO REPEAT INFORMATION IF ASKED TO DO SO.**

**REMEMBER – IF IN DOUBT, DIAL 999 or 112.**