



ASTHMA FRIENDLY POLICY



Plan of action for a student with diagnosed asthma

The staff, together with the parents/carers of a student with asthma, will discuss and agree on the plan of action for the emergency management of an asthma attack consistent with the information provided on the student's asthma care plan and/or the 4 step asthma first aid plan.

Administer Asthma First Aid according to either:

- The student's asthma care plan as signed by the parents/carers and doctor and/or doctor's written instructions.

OR where the plan is not available

- Commence the standard asthma emergency protocol:
Step 1: Sit the student upright and remain calm and provide reassurance. Do not leave the student alone.
Step 2: Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever, one puff at a time, through a spacer device. Ask the student to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
Step 3: Wait 4 minutes.
Step 4: If there is little or no improvement, repeat steps 2 and 3. If there is still little or no improvement, call an ambulance immediately (dial 000). Continue to repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.
- Parents/Carers should be notified of any medication used for an emergency asthma attack.

In an emergency the blue reliever puffer can be the student's own, or accessed from the Asthma Emergency Kit. The Asthma Foundation recommends that only staff who are trained in Asthma First Aid should administer the blue reliever medication from the Asthma Emergency Kit.

- Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.

Plan of action for a student who is not known to have asthma

In this situation staff will:

- Step 1: Call an ambulance immediately (dial 000) and state that the student is having breathing difficulties.
- Step 2: Give 4 puffs of a blue reliever, one puff at a time, through a spacer device. Ask the student to take 4 breaths from the spacer after each puff.
- Step 3: Wait 4 minutes.
- Step 4: If there is little or no improvement, repeat steps 2 and 3. Continue to repeat steps 2 and 3 while waiting for the ambulance.

Contact the parents/carers immediately.

Record any asthma incident and file the completed form with all incident reports.

- This treatment could be lifesaving for a student whose asthma has not been previously recognised and no harm is likely to result from giving a reliever puffer if the breathing difficulty was not due to asthma.