



### **Introduction and background**

This policy has been written with advice from the Department for Education & Employment, Asthma UK, the local education authority, local healthcare professionals, the school health service, parents and the governing body.

At St Martin's we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at this school. In line with our policy of inclusion we positively welcome 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 (the local education authority) and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma are provided with training on asthma. Training is updated every two years.

### **Asthma Medication**

#### **Reliever Medication (blue)**

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Parents are asked to also provide a spacer to ensure that medication is taken effectively. All inhalers and medication must be clearly named.

Inhalers and spacers will be kept in a class box in the Medical Room. A child needing to use their inhaler will be escorted to the Medical Room by an adult member of staff who will record the number of puffs taken in the Medical Record book and will also complete a medical slip for the child to take home.

#### **Administering Medication**

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 education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. **All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.**

### **Record Keeping**

At the beginning of each school year or when a child or young person joins the school, parents are requested to disclose if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their enrolment form.

This school keeps an asthma register which is available to all school staff. A copy is also kept in the Medical Room.

Expiry dates on medication are checked at the end of each term and parents are informed if medication expires before the end of the next term, so that replacements can be obtained and

brought into school. Parents are also informed if medication is running low. All medication is returned to parents at the end of the school year.

The school records when inhalers are used and, in addition, a note is sent home for parents/carers information.

## **PE, Games and Activities**

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 and all visiting PE teachers at the school are aware of which pupils have asthma from the school's asthma register.

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 (blue) before the lesson and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. If a pupil needs to use their reliever inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

The same principles as described above for games and activities apply to all lessons involving physical activity.

## **Extra-Curricular Sport**

This school supports pupils with asthma participating in all extra-curricular sports and activities. This school will ensure that all school and visiting staff 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.

## **Activities away from the School Site**

Pupils with asthma will participate in all activities off-site. Medication will be taken by staff on all visits away from school. This school will ensure that all school staff are provided with asthma training.

## **The School Environment**

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with asthma. The school has a definite no-smoking policy. As far as possible the school does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for pupils with asthma.

## **Making the School Asthma Friendly**

This school ensures that all pupils have an appropriate understanding of asthma through teaching via the national curriculum.

## **When a child or young person is falling behind in lessons**

This school recognises that it is possible for pupils with asthma to have special educational needs due to their asthma. If necessary appropriate interventions will be put in place and the child may be placed on the SEND Register in line with the SEND Policy.

## **Asthma Attacks**

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. Staff trained in First Aid are also trained to deal with an asthma attack.

In the event of an attack the school will follow the procedure outlined in Appendix A of this policy. This is following the guidance of Asthma UK's School Asthma Pack.

A copy of the procedure "What to do in an asthma attack" is displayed in the Medical Room and every class room around the school.

## **Responsibilities**

The Head Teacher will ensure that staff are made aware of this Asthma Policy and its contents.

The Office staff will maintain the Asthma Register and ensure that staff are aware which children have inhalers in school. All children on the Asthma Register will have a Vulnerable Pupil Risk Assessment.

Copies of the Asthma Register will be kept in the School Office and in the Medical Room.

The Inclusion Leader will arrange Asthma Training every two years.

The Welfare Assistant will check medication (dates and quantity) every term and notify parents as necessary.

Staff will keep records when asthma medication is taken or administered.

## **Review of this policy**

This policy will be reviewed every two years (biennially).

Signed (Headteacher) :

Signed (Governor):

Dated:

Review Date: