

BRYN COCH PRIMARY SCHOOL MOLD



Asthma Policy

School	BRYN COCH SCHOOL
Date policy approved and adopted	Autumn 2020
Next review date	Autumn 2023
Head teacher	LYNNE WILLIAMS
Designated Governor	MERRILL TANTON
Designated Teacher	PAULA WALSH
Website	www.ysgolbryncoch.com

1. Background

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

Ysgol Bryn Coch recognises that Asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils at the school. Ysgol Bryn Coch positively welcomes all pupils with Asthma. The 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.

All staff who come into contact with pupils with Asthma are provided with training on Asthma from the school nurse, who has had Asthma training. Staff will have training updates once a year.

2. Asthma Medication

Immediate access to reliever medication is essential. Older Pupils with Asthma are encouraged to carry their own reliever inhaler with them at all times. This helps to promote independence and helps with compliance. Younger children will have their medication close to hand and this will also be available for none classroom based activities e.g. P.E, outside activities, trips away from the school.

Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the school is provided with a prescribed inhaler device, correctly labelled with the child's name and date of birth. All parents will be asked to fill out an Asthma UK School Asthma Card (see Appendix 2), which provides an individualised plan of care. The school will ask parents to update this card on a yearly basis or more frequently if treatment changes as identified by the parent.

School staff are not required to administer Asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), but may need to supervise younger children. All school staff will let pupils take their own Asthma medication when they need to.

3. Record Keeping

When a child joins Ysgol Bryn Coch, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including Asthma, on their enrolment forms.

All parents/carers of children who have been identified as having Asthma are consequently sent an Asthma UK School Asthma card which needs to be completed and returned to school. From this information, the school keeps its Asthma register which is available to all staff on request. School Asthma Cards are given to parents once a year for updating. Parents/carers are also asked to update or exchange the card for a new one if their child's medicine changes during the year. If it is observed that a child is having to use their inhaler device more frequently than expected, parents will be informed so that further advice may be obtained from their GP/Asthma nurse.

4. Exercise and Activity

4.1. PE and Games

Taking part in sports, games and activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. Teachers are able to check the Asthma register and will be aware of those children who will need access to their medication.

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, and for all pupils to thoroughly warm up and down before and after the lesson. Inhalers will be kept close to hand and if a pupil needs to use their inhaler during a lesson they will be encouraged to do so.

4.2. Extra-curricular Sports 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 out of school. The health benefits of exercise are well documented and this is also true for children and young people with Asthma. All pupils regardless of whether they have Asthma or not will be encouraged to participate in extra curricular activities/clubs.

5. School Environment

Ysgol Bryn Coch does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to pupils with Asthma. Teachers will be aware of potential triggers for Asthma and where possible reduce this risk. The school has a definitive 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. Pupils with Asthma are encouraged to leave the room if particular fumes trigger their Asthma.

All teaching and support staff are Asthma aware. Parents of pupils who are having difficulties with their Asthma control in school can request help from the school nurse. They may also be encouraged to talk to their GP or Asthma nurse. Parents are encouraged to talk to school if they have any particular concerns which they feel the school needs to be made aware of.

6. Difficulties with Learning

If a pupil is missing a lot of time at school or has difficulties with their Asthma control, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents/carers to try to prevent the child's progress being affected. In these cases the class teacher will inform the headteacher and ALNCo of their concerns. If appropriate they may contact the school nurse/Inclusion welfare officer for further support and advice. Ysgol Bryn Coch recognises that it is possible for pupils with Asthma to have special education needs due to their condition, and will address those needs if they arise.

7. Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils will be offered annual Asthma awareness training by the school nurse. This training will also include emergency management

of an Asthmatic attack. All first aiders within school will know what to do in the event of an Asthma attack and will attend an annual Asthma update.

In the event of an Asthma attack, the school follows the procedure outlined by Asthma UK (see Appendix 1). This procedure is visibly displayed in the staff room and in several locations around the school.

8. Generic School Emergency Inhaler

As per Welsh Government guidance 015/2014, (Guidance on the use of emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools in Wales), Ysgol Bryn Coch will keep a Salbutamol inhaler and inhaler device for emergency pupil use. The headteacher/ALNCo will arrange for Ysgol Bryn Coch to purchase these from a community pharmacy and arrange replacement as necessary. The inhaler and inhaler device will be stored in the medical cupboard in the main office. Pupils where ever possible will be encouraged to use their own inhaler and parents will be contacted if it is identified that the inhaler has run out/due to run out or expired.

8.1. Consent

Alongside the use of the Asthma Card/Asthma register, written consent will be requested of parents to allow staff to utilise the 'Generic school emergency inhaler' in the event that their child is displaying symptoms of Asthma and if their own inhaler is not available or is unusable. A record of this consent along with a copy of the Asthma register will be kept with the 'Generic school emergency inhaler'.

8.2. Asthma Attacks

All staff have annual Asthma awareness training. In the event of an Asthma attack, staff will follow Asthma UK guide lines. If the child's own inhaler is not available, staff will administer the 'Generic school emergency inhaler' providing written consent had been obtained. If written consent has not been given, parents will be contacted and emergency help will be obtained via an ambulance if necessary.

8.3. After Use Procedures

If the emergency inhaler device is used, the spacer device will be cleaned as per guidelines. The emergency inhaler will be cleaned as per manufacturers recommended guidelines. A record of use will be kept by the school and parents will be informed if the school has had to use the 'Generic school emergency inhaler'. The emergency inhaler expiry dates will be checked once per term by the ALNCo and replacements obtained as necessary.

9. Roles and responsibilities

9.1. Headteacher

- Be responsible for overall implementation of the Asthma policy.
- Communicate, maintain and monitor policy.
- Assess staff training and arrange for those not met.
- Delegate responsibility for cleaning devices, checking expiry dates (once per term), as per recommendations.

9.2. School Staff

- Understand policy
- Identify if their own training needs are not met
- Allow access to reliever medication
- Report concerns
- Ensure pupils have their inhalers on school trips and pre exercise if needed

9.3. Governors

- Approve policy
- Monitor and report on effectiveness

9.4. School Nurse

- Liaise with school staff and offer advice for any problems identified.
- Promote positive Asthma message
- Provide annual Asthma updates and provide individual training if need is highlighted.

9.5. Pupils

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Pupils should be encouraged to tell an adult if they have concerns about another pupil.

9.6. Parents

- Inform school if their child has Asthma, medication is needed or medication changes.
- Complete and return Asthma card and update annually or more often if required.
- Ensure inhaler is brought into school, is correctly labelled with child's name and date of birth.
- Parents will seek advice if they have concerns about their child's Asthma (from GP/consultant, Asthma nurse or school nurse).

10. Useful Links

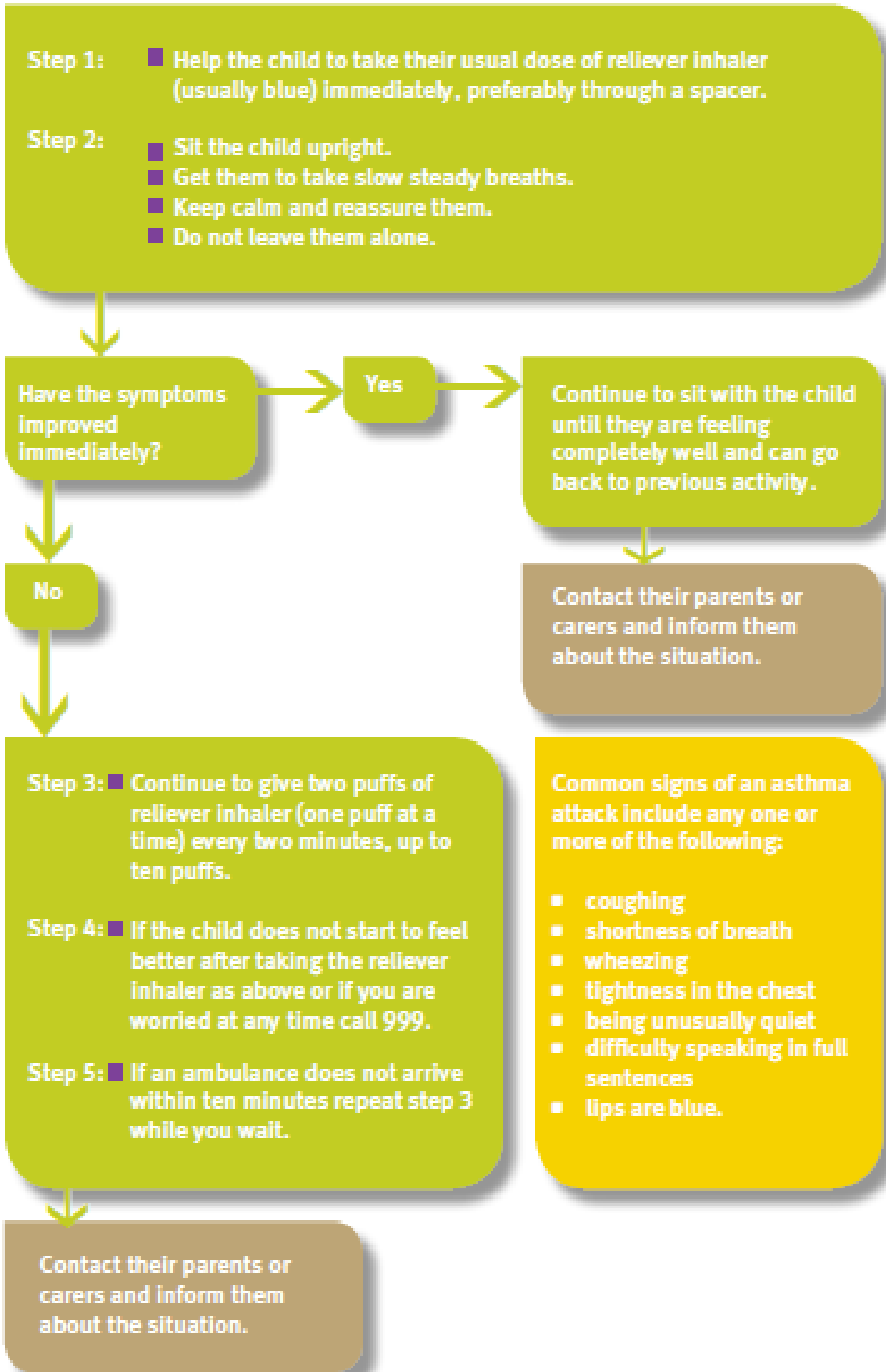
https://www.asthma.org.uk/globalassets/health-advice/resources/easy-read/easy_read_all_about_asthma_booklet.pdf

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/>

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/resources/&schools>

<http://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/guidance-on-the-use-of-emergency-salbutamol-inhalers-in-schools-in-wales-en.pdf>

How to deal with an asthma attack



Appendix 2

School Asthma Card

To be filled in by the parent/carer

Child's name

Date of birth

Address

Parent/carer's name

Telephone - home

Telephone - mobile

Email

Doctor/nurse's name

Doctor/nurse's telephone

This card is for your child's school. **Review the card at least once a year and remember to update or exchange it for a new one if your child's treatment changes during the year.** Medicines should be clearly labelled with your child's name and kept in agreement with the school's policy.

Reliever treatment when needed

For shortness of breath, sudden tightness in the chest, wheeze or cough, give or allow my child to take the medicines below. After treatment and as soon as they feel better they can return to normal activity.

Medicine	Parent/carer's signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Expiry dates of medicines checked

Medicine	Date checked	Parent/carer's signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What signs can indicate that your child is having an asthma attack?

Parent/carer's signature Date

Does your child tell you when he/she needs medicine?

Yes No

Does your child need help taking his/her asthma medicines?

Yes No

What are your child's triggers (things that make their asthma worse)?

Does your child need to take medicines before exercise or play?

Yes No

If yes, please describe below

Medicine	How much and when taken
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Does your child need to take any other asthma medicines while in the school's care?

Yes No

If yes please describe below

Medicine	How much and when taken
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Dates card checked by doctor or nurse

Date	Name	Job title	Signature
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

What to do if a child is having an asthma attack

- 1 Help them sit up straight and keep calm.
- 2 Help them take one puff of their reliever inhaler (usually blue) every 30-60 seconds, up to a maximum of 10 puffs.
- 3 Call 999 for an ambulance if:
 - their symptoms get worse while they're using their inhaler - this could be a cough, breathlessness, wheeze, tight chest or sometimes a child will say they have a 'bummy ache'
 - they don't feel better after 10 puffs
 - you're worried at any time.
- 4 You can repeat step 2 if the ambulance is taking longer than 15 minutes.



Any asthma questions?
Call our friendly helpline nurses

0300 222 5800

(9am - 5pm; Mon - Fri)

www.asthma.org.uk

