Broadbent Fold Primary School

and Nursery



In Partnership with STAMFORD PARK TRUST

Asthma Policy

November 2026

In line with the Equalities Act (2010) we aim to ensure that any child, irrespective of protected characteristics (These are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.) is treated fairly and with respect. The law states that the public sector equality duty includes a general duty to, "Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not." This policy can be adapted to suit individual needs.

This policy has been created with regard to the following DfE guidance:

- 'Supporting children at school with medical conditions' December 2015.
- 'Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools' March 2015.

This policy has also been created in consultation with parents/carers, the governing body, school nurses and children, and with regard to additional guidance from Asthma UK and healthcare professionals. It enables children with asthma to manage their condition effectively in school and provides clear procedures to help ensure their safety and wellbeing. It also encourages and assists children with asthma in achieving their full potential in all aspects of school life.

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery:

- Recognises that asthma is a serious but controllable condition and welcomes all children with asthma.
- Ensures that children with asthma can and do participate fully in all aspects of school life including physical exercise, visits, field trips and other out-of-school activities.
- Recognises that children with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.
- Keeps a record of all children with asthma and their medicinal requirements.
- Ensures that the school environment is conducive to the education of children with asthma.
- Ensures that all members of school staff (including supply teachers) who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Understands that children with asthma may experience bullying and have procedures in place to prevent this occurring.
- Works in partnership with interested parties, such as the governing body, members of school staff, parents, children and outside agencies, to ensure the best educational outcomes possible for children with asthma.

Key roles and responsibilities

The governing body has a responsibility to:

- Ensure the health and safety of staff and children on the school premises and when taking part in school activities.
- Ensure the Asthma Policy, as written, does not discriminate on any grounds, including, but not limited to: age, ethnicity/national origin, culture, religion, gender, disability or sexual orientation.
- Handle complaints regarding this policy as outlined in the school's Complaints Policy.
- Ensure the Asthma Policy is effectively monitored and updated.
- Report any successes and failures of this policy to the Headteacher, members of school staff, local health authorities, parents and children.
- Provide indemnity for teachers and other members of school staff who volunteer to administer medicine to children with asthma in need of help.

The Headteacher has a responsibility to:

- Create and implement the Asthma Policy with the help of school staff, LA guidance and the governing body.
- Ensure this policy is effectively implemented and communicated to all members of the school community.
- Ensure all aspects of this policy are effectively carried out.
- Ensures training and development needs of staff are met, staff know how to recognise the symptoms of an asthma attack, how to distinguish asthma attacks from other conditions with similar symptoms, how to deal with an asthma attack, how to access the emergency inhalers.
- Ensure all supply teachers and new members of staff are made aware of the Asthma Policy.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Asthma Policy.
- Delegate the responsibility to check the expiry date of spare reliever inhalers and maintain the school's Asthma Register to a designated member of staff.
- Report to the governing body and LA as necessary.

Members of school staff have a responsibility to:

- Read and understand the Asthma Policy.
- Know which children have asthma – see medical conditions list.
- Know what to do in the event of an asthma attack (as outlined in sections 6 and 7).
- Allow children with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler.

- Inform parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack, contact emergency services if severe.
- Inform parents/carers if their child is using their reliever inhaler more than usual.
- Ensure children with asthma have their medication with them on school trips and during activities outside of the classroom.
- Ensure children who are unwell due to asthma are allowed the time and resources to catch up on missed school work.
- Be aware that children with asthma may experience tiredness during the school day due to their night-time symptoms.
- Be aware that children with asthma may experience bullying.

Members of staff leading PE lessons have a responsibility to:

- Understand asthma and its impact on children. Children with asthma should not be forced to take part in activities if they feel unwell.
- Ensure children are not excluded from activities that they wish to take part in, provided their asthma is well controlled.
- Ensure children have their reliever inhaler with them during physical activity and that they are allowed to use it when needed.
- Allow children to stop during activities if they experience symptoms of asthma.
- Allow children to return to activities when they feel well enough to do so and their symptoms have subsided (the school recommends a five-minute waiting period before allowing a child to return).
- Remind children with asthma whose symptoms are triggered by physical activity to use their reliever inhaler before warming up.
- Ensure children with asthma always perform sufficient warmups and warm downs.

Children with asthma have a responsibility to:

- Tell their teacher or parent/carer if they are feeling unwell.
- Treat asthma medicines with respect.
- Know how to gain access to their medication in an emergency.
- Know how to take their asthma medicine.

Parents/carers have a responsibility to:

- Inform the school if their child has asthma.
- Ensure the school has a complete and up-to-date asthma card for their child.
- Inform the school of the medication their child requires during school hours.
- Inform the school of any medication their child requires during school trips, team sports events and other out-of-school activities.

- Inform the school of any changes to their child's medicinal requirements.
- Inform the school of any changes to their child's asthmatic condition. For example, if their child is currently experiencing sleep problems due to their condition.
- Ensure their child's reliever inhaler and spacer are labelled with their child's name.
- Ensure their child's reliever inhaler is within the expiry date.
- Ensure their child receives support from any school work they have missed due to problems with asthma.
- Ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctors or asthma nurse (every six to twelve months).
- Ensure their child has a written Personal Asthma Plan to help them manage the child's condition (if required).

Asthma medicines

- Children with asthma have their reliever inhaler in their own classroom during the school day and with a First Aider if on a trip.
- Reliever inhalers kept in the school's charge are held in the child's classroom in a designated storage area.
- Parents/carers must label their child's inhaler.
- Members of school staff are not required to administer medicines to children (except in emergencies).
- Staff members who have agreed to administer asthma medicines are insured by Department for Education Risk and Protection Plan insurance when acting in agreement with this policy.
- Staff members will let children take their own medicines when they need to.

Emergency inhaler

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery keeps a supply of salbutamol inhalers including disposable spacers for use in emergencies when a child's own inhaler is not available. Parents/carers are contacted if their child has used a school inhaler.

In line with the school's Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy, appropriate support and training will be provided for relevant staff on the use of the emergency inhaler and administering the emergency inhaler. Staff will be First Aid trained.

Symptoms of an asthma attack

Members of school staff will look for the following symptoms of asthma attacks in children:

- Persistent coughing (when at rest)

- Shortness of breath (breathing fast and with effort)
- Wheezing
- Nasal flaring
- Complaints of tightness in the chest
- Being unusually quiet
- Difficulty speaking in full sentences

Younger children may express feeling tight in the chest as a 'tummy ache'.

What to do when a child has an asthma attack

In the event of an asthma attack, staff will follow the procedure outlined below:

- Keep calm and encourage children to do the same.
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forwards – do not hug them or lie them down.
- If necessary, call another member of staff to retrieve the emergency inhaler – do not leave the affected pupil unattended.
- If necessary, summon the assistance of a designated member of staff, to help administer an emergency inhaler.
- Ensure the child takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler (or the emergency inhaler) immediately, preferably through a spacer.
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened.
- Reassure the child.

If there is no immediate improvement:

- Continue to ensure the child takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler every two minutes, until their systems improve, but only up to a maximum of 10 puffs.

If there is no improvement before you have reached 10 puffs:

- Call 999 for an ambulance.
  If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes, administer another 10 puffs of the reliever inhaler as outlined in 6.2.

Call 999 immediately if:

- The child is too breathless or exhausted to talk.
- The child is going blue.
- The child's lips have a blue/white tinge.
- The child has collapsed.
- You are in any doubt.

Important points to remember

- Never leave a child having an asthma attack unattended.
- If a child does not have their inhaler, send another teacher or pupil to retrieve their spare inhaler.
- In an emergency situation, members of school staff are required to act like a 'prudent parent' – known as having a 'duty of care'.
- Send another child to get a teacher/adult if an ambulance needs to be called.
- Contact the child's parents/carers immediately after calling an ambulance.
- A member of staff should always accompany a child taken to hospital by ambulance and stay with them until their parent/carer arrives.
- Generally, staff will not take children to hospital in their own car. However, in some extreme situations Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery understands that it may be the best course of action.
- If a situation warrants a staff member taking a child to hospital in their car, another adult must accompany them.

Record keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery, parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child has any medical conditions, including asthma, on their home contact form.

The school keeps a record of all children with asthma, complete with medication requirements, in its Asthma Register.

Parents must inform the school of any changes to their child's condition or medication during the school year via an Asthma Policy form or Arbor.

Exercise and physical activity

Games, activities and sports are an essential part of school life for our children. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma and are aware of any safety requirements.

Outside suppliers of sports clubs and activities are provided with information about children with asthma taking part in the activity via the school's Medical Register.

During sports, activities and games, each pupil's labelled inhaler will be kept in a box at the site of the activity.

Classroom teachers will follow the same guidelines as above during physical activities in the classroom.

Out-of-hours sport

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery believes sport to be of great importance and utilises out-of-hours sports clubs to benefit children and increase the number of children involved in sport and exercise.

Children with asthma are encouraged to become involved in out-of-hours sport as much as possible and will never be excluded from participation unless staff or parents feel it is not suitable.

The school environment

Broadbent Fold Primary School and Nursery does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school does not keep any furry or feathered animals and has a definitive no-smoking policy throughout school grounds.

As far as possible, the school does not use any chemicals in art or science lessons that are potential triggers for asthma.

If chemicals that are known to be asthmatic triggers are to be used, asthmatic children will be taken outside of the classroom and provided with support and resources to continue learning.

Monitoring and review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored continually by the Headteacher. Any necessary amendments may be made immediately. The governing body will review this policy annually.