



St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools

Love one another
Always do our best
Take care of ourselves and the world around us

Asthma Policy

Approved: March 2026

Statement of Intent

St. Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools recognise that asthma is a common medical condition affecting many pupils. The school is committed to ensuring that pupils with asthma are able to participate fully in school life and achieve their academic potential.

The school aims to provide a supportive environment in which pupils with asthma feel confident that their condition will be managed effectively and safely.

This policy outlines how the school will support pupils with asthma, including the safe storage and use of inhalers, staff responsibilities and emergency procedures.

This policy should be read alongside the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and the Administering Medication Policy.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance including:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- DfE (2015) Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions
- Department of Health (2014) Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Board

- Ensuring arrangements are in place to support pupils with asthma.
- Ensuring policies are implemented effectively.
- Ensuring appropriate staff training is provided.

Headteacher

- Ensuring this policy is implemented effectively.
- Ensuring staff are aware of pupils with asthma.
- Ensuring sufficient staff are trained to respond to asthma attacks.
- Ensuring emergency inhalers are available and maintained.

School Staff

- Be aware of pupils with asthma.
- Know where inhalers and emergency inhalers are stored.

- Respond appropriately to asthma symptoms.
- Ensure pupils can access their inhalers immediately when needed.
- Record the use of inhalers where appropriate.

Parents and Carers

- Inform the school if their child has asthma.
- Provide the school with up-to-date information about their child's condition.
- Provide a clearly labelled inhaler and spacer for their child.
- Ensure inhalers are in date and replaced when necessary.

Pupils

- Take responsibility for their inhaler where appropriate.
- Inform staff if they feel unwell or experience symptoms.
- Follow agreed asthma management procedures.

Asthma Management

Where necessary, pupils with asthma will have an Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) which will outline:

- triggers
- symptoms
- medication
- emergency procedures
- support required during school activities

Asthma will be managed in line with the school's Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Storage and Access to Inhalers

All pupils with asthma must have immediate access to their inhaler at all times.

At St. Mary's Priory:

- Inhalers are stored in class medical bags or carried by the pupil where appropriate.
- Inhalers accompany pupils during school trips and outdoor activities.
- Pupils and staff are informed of where inhalers are stored.

All inhalers must be clearly labelled, in date and provided by parents.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

The school holds emergency salbutamol inhalers for use in the event of an asthma attack.

These inhalers:

- Are stored in accessible locations within the school.
- Are used in accordance with Department of Health guidance.
- May be administered to pupils who have a diagnosis of asthma, have been prescribed an inhaler and have written parental consent.

All uses of the emergency inhaler will be recorded and parents will be informed.

Recognising an Asthma Attack

Staff will be trained to recognise symptoms of an asthma attack which may include:

- Persistent coughing
- Wheezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest tightness
- Difficulty speaking
- Unusual tiredness

Responding to an Asthma Attack

If a pupil experiences an asthma attack:

1. Remain calm and reassure the pupil.
2. Help the pupil to sit upright.
3. Assist the pupil in using their inhaler.
4. Allow the pupil to take 2 puffs of their reliever inhaler.
5. If symptoms persist, administer one puff every 30–60 seconds up to 10 puffs.

Emergency services will be called if symptoms do not improve, the pupil becomes exhausted, the pupil cannot speak or breathe properly, or there is no inhaler available.

Parents will be informed as soon as possible.

Physical Activity and School Trips

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE lessons, sports activities, school trips and residential visits.

Staff will ensure inhalers are available during these activities and adjustments will be made where necessary to support pupils.

Record Keeping

The school will maintain records of pupils diagnosed with asthma, parental consent forms, Individual Healthcare Plans and emergency inhaler use.

Records will be stored securely and relevant information shared with staff where necessary.

Staff Training

Staff will receive training on recognising asthma symptoms, responding to asthma attacks, using inhalers and spacers and emergency procedures.

Training may be provided by the school nurse, NHS professionals or external training providers.

Unacceptable Practice

The school will not:

- Prevent pupils from accessing their inhaler.
- Assume that all pupils with asthma experience the same symptoms.
- Ignore asthma symptoms.
- Prevent pupils with asthma from participating in activities unless medically advised.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governing Board.

Any updates will be communicated to staff, parents and relevant stakeholders.