



## **Asthma Policy**

<b>Policy Written/Reviewed by</b>	Fiona May
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<b>Date of Next Review</b>	September 2026

## **Introduction**

Asthma is the most common chronic condition affecting one in eleven children. On average there are two children with asthma in every classroom in the UK and over 25,000 emergency hospital admissions a year.

The Rowans AP Academy recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition and we welcome all pupils with asthma.

At the beginning of each school year or when a child joins the school, parents and carers will be asked if their child has any medical conditions. If a child or young person has asthma this will be documented within the medical needs folder.

Every asthmatic child should have a reliever inhaler in school stored with their individual health care plan. This health care plan will include parental consent for staff to administer medicine.

The school will ensure they have received the child's individual action plan from the GP practice or parent/carer at pre-admission. Parents/carers will be asked annually for updates as part of Academic Induction Day.

The school recognises that pupils always need immediate access to reliever inhalers including all out of school activities. Inhalers are signed out by a member of staff when a pupil is attending an off-site activity or trip and signed back in, upon return to school site.

Children with asthma are encouraged to take control of their condition and feel confident in the support they receive from school. In case of an emergency where a child is unable to self-administer their inhaler all staff should feel confident in managing this situation. All staff must understand their duty of care to children in an event of an emergency.

## **Exercise**

Taking part in sports, PE and practical activities is an essential part of school life for all pupils. The health benefits of exercise are well documented, and this is also true for children and young people with Asthma. Consequently, it is vital that pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all physical education lessons. Staff should remind pupils whose asthma is triggered by exercise, to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson, and to thoroughly warm up and down before and after exercise.

The school ensures the whole environment which includes physical, social, sporting, and educational activities is inclusive and favourable to children with asthma.

## **Staff Training/Awareness**

We ensure all school staff are aware of the potential triggers and ways to minimise these signs and symptoms of a pupil's asthma and what to do in the event of an attack.

The Rowans AP Academy ensures that all staff including support staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in an event of an attack. All staff understand that pupils with asthma should not be forced to take part in an activity if they feel unwell.

## **Administration**

The Rowans AP Academy has clear guidance on the administration of medicine in school – *Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs*.

The Department of Health guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school (DH, 2015) recommends school keep an emergency salbutamol inhaler – The inhaler should only be used for children who have a diagnosis of asthma and are prescribed a reliever inhaler. Parents and carers will be made aware of this provision at pre-admission meeting and written consent given for its use in an emergency situation. This inhaler can only be used if the pupil's own inhaler is not available to them. The school will return the inhalers to the community pharmacy for safe disposal.

## **Emergency Response**

If a pupil needs to be taken to hospital a member of staff will always accompany them until a parent/carer arrives.

## **Staff Responsibilities**

### **The Headteacher and DSL is responsible for:**

- Supporting staff in an emergency
- Ensuring that inhalers are checked termly to guarantee that replacement inhalers are obtained before the expiry date
- Ensuring that used or out of date inhalers are returned to the local pharmacy for disposal
- Ensuring that the medical needs register is accurate and up to date

### **All staff responsibilities:**

- The school emergency inhaler section of the medication folder should be completed if the emergency inhaler has been used.
- Staff must inform the main office if a school emergency inhaler has been used so that a new inhaler can be ordered/replaced.
- All staff should be aware of which pupils have asthma, be familiar with the content of their individual health plan and have read the schools Asthma policy.
- All staff must ensure pupils have immediate access to their emergency medicines.
- Maintain effective communication with parents/carers including informing them if their child has been unwell at school
- Ensure pupils have their medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
- Be aware of pupils with asthma who may need extra support
- Ensure all pupils with asthma are not excluded from activities they wish to take part in
- Parents/carers to be informed if child/young person has used their inhaler due to asthma symptoms

## **Safe storage**

- Emergency medicines are readily available to pupils who require them at all times during the school day
- Most pupils at this school carry their emergency medicines on them at all times and keep them securely
- Pupils whose health care professionals /parents/carers advise the school that their child is not yet able or old enough to self-manage their condition, know exactly where to access their emergency medicines

## References

1. Asthma UK  
<https://www.asthma.org.uk/about?gclid=CJqmpbWsrM0CFYdAGwod4KQEnQ&gclid=CJqmpbWsrM0CFYdAGwod4KQEnQ>
2. Department of Health (2015), Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/416468/emergency\\_inhalers\\_in\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf)