



The Edge Schools' Federation

Asthma Policy



Last reviewed on: February 2024

Next review due by: February 2026

Principles

The Edge Schools' Federation recognises that asthma is a potentially life-threatening condition affecting many children and adults. We welcome all pupils with asthma to our schools and ensure that our school environment is safe and caring for those who suffer from asthma.

- We ensure that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of school life including PE.
- We recognise that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital.
- We keep records of children with asthma and the medication they take.
- We ensure the school environment is supportive and caring towards children with asthma.
- We ensure that children understand asthma and the impact it might have on a person's life.
- We ensure all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- We work in partnership with all interested parties including school staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children themselves to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.

The Edge Schools' Federation encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life and recognises that asthma is not a barrier to success in any area.

All teachers and teaching assistants undertake asthma awareness training provided by Shropshire Council on an annual basis.

Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Children are able to carry and manage their own inhaler as soon as their parents/carers, medical professionals and class teacher agree they are mature enough to manage their own medication. Children should always tell their class teacher or first aider when they have had occasion to use their inhaler. Records are kept each time an inhaler is used. Inhalers for those children who may need support with administering their medication are kept in their individual classrooms in the care of the class teacher.

All inhalers must be labelled with the child's name. School staff are not required to administer medication to children except in an emergency however staff who agree to support children with administering their asthma medication are insured by the local education authority when acting in accordance with this policy.

All school staff will permit children take their own asthma medication when needed.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year, or when a child joins the school, parents are asked to inform the school if their child is asthmatic. All parents of children with asthma are required to complete a Pupil Individual Health Care Plan (Appendix 1) and return it to the school. IHCPs are kept electronically on the child's individual record and paper copies are available for view to school staff in the staff room. If any changes are made to a child's medication or care needs it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the school of these as soon as possible.

A written record (signed by an asthma-trained member of staff) is to be kept in school of every use of the inhaler by the pupil. These are to be available to be shared with parents/carers and medical professionals on request.

All Edge Schools' Federation schools hold emergency salbutamol inhalers and spacers as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in schools' (DfE March 2015). Emergency inhalers can only be administered to children with an IHCP in the event of their usual medication not being immediately available. Parents / carers should be informed by telephone that their child has used the school's emergency salbutamol inhaler in school as soon as possible after use.

Asthma inhalers for each child are to be checked for expiry dates by the class teacher. Each child's inhaler is kept in their own classroom or in their own bag, as agreed on their IHCP.

All teachers and teaching assistants are responsible for acquainting themselves with the triggers of a possible attack (allergies, colds, cough, cold weather) for each individual child in their care. All of this information is found in the pupil's IHCP.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Teachers are aware of which children have asthma from their IHCPs. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise to take their reliever inhaler before the lesson. Each child's inhalers will be labelled and kept in a box at the site of the lesson. If a child needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

School Trips and Outside Activities

When a child is away from the school classroom on a school trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them and be made available to them at all times per the requirements of this policy.

The School Environment

The school does all that it can to ensure the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. Consideration should be given to all materials used in school to ensure that they are low-allergen and asthma-friendly.

Making the school Asthma Friendly

The school ensures that all children understand asthma. Asthma can be included in Key Stages 1 and 2 in science, design and technology, geography, history and PE of the national curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for children and teens can be accessed from the following website www.asthma.org.uk.

If a child is falling behind in their learning

If a child is missing a lot of time from school because of asthma or is tired in class because of disturbed sleep and falling behind in class, the class teacher will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the teacher will then talk to the school nursing team and special educational needs coordinator about the situation. The school recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special educational needs because of asthma.

Asthma Attacks

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in school. When they feel better, they can return to school activities. Parents/carers must be informed by telephone as soon as possible about any asthma attacks in school.

All staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. All Edge Schools' Federation schools use the following procedures:

1. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately.
2. Stay calm and reassure the child.
3. Help the child to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened and that they are seated in an upright position.
4. Give up to 10 puffs of inhaler (or as directed in pupil's IHCP)

Emergency procedure

If the pupil does not feel better or you are worried at any time before reaching 10 puffs from the inhaler, call 999 for an ambulance.

If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes, give an additional 10 puffs as detailed above.

In the event of an ambulance being called, the pupil's parents or carers should always be contacted immediately.

In the event of a pupil being taken to hospital by ambulance, they should always be accompanied by a member of staff until a parent or carer is present.

Policy created February 2024

Review date February 2026

Individual Health Care Plan

Student's Name:

DOB:

School:

Date of Plan:

Date Reviewed:

EHCP IN PLACE: YES / NO

Insert Photo here

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Home:
Email:	Work:
Name:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Home:
Email:	Work:
Name:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Home:
Email:	Work:
Name:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Home:
Email:	Work:
Name:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Home:
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Name:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Home:
Email:	Work:

CONSENTS:

I give permission for the release of information in this health care plan to all staff members who have been identified to support the child identified on this plan with the medical needs management outlined below. I also give permission for any school staff member to contact members of the School Nursing Service or other healthcare professionals for advice or information about managing my/my child's health needs and for these healthcare professionals to release the necessary advice or information required to maintain my/my child's health and safety.

Student (where appropriate):

Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Carer:

Name: _____ Signed: _____ Date: _____

Child's care needs:

Child's health care management (what school needs to do):

Any other information you would like school to know: