



St Anne's Catholic **Primary School**

Emergency Asthma **Protocol**

Reviewed	22.09.25
Review Due	Autumn 2026

St. Anne's Catholic Primary School

Emergency Asthma Protocol

From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 has allowed schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies.

The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.

Who can administer or assist a child to use the emergency inhale?

All staff that attended our first aid training.

Before giving the inhaler

All staff that attended the training must ensure that the child has consent.

Emergency asthma kit will include:

A salbutamol metered dose inhaler

One plastic spacers (Volumatic®) compatible with the inhaler

One pack of cardboard disposable volumatic spacers

Instructions on using the inhaler and spacer/plastic chamber;

Manufacturer's information; (product information leaflets will be supplied for the salbutamol inhaler and spacer devices)

Recognising asthma symptoms

Please see guidance sheets attached.

Recording use of the inhaler and informing parents/carers

Use of the emergency inhaler must be recorded in administering medication book in school office/medical room

For further guidance please see Department of Health : Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools March 2015

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/416468/emergency_inhalers_in_schools.pdf

WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

- **Keep calm and reassure the child**
- **Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward**
- **Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler**
- **Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them**
- **Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of salbutamol via the spacer**
- **If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs**
- **Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better.**
- **If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE**
- **If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way.**

HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK

The signs of an asthma attack are

- **Persistent cough (when at rest)**
- **A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)**
- **Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)**
- **Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet**
- **May try to tell you that their chest ‘feels tight’ (younger children may express this as tummy ache)**

**CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND
COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK
PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD**

- **Appears exhausted**
- **Has a blue/white tinge around lips**
- **Is going blue**
- **Has collapsed**