

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Nursery

Policy on Asthma

Mission Statement

"You are precious in my eyes" - Isaiah 43

- *Our Lady Star of the Sea Nursery is committed to the widest and fullest education of all children in a partnership between home, nursery, parish and community.*
- *Our nursery aims to create a happy, ordered environment where all members feel secure, valued and respect each other.*
- *Our nursery aims to be a positive force within the Catholic Church inspired by the life of Christ in the Gospels*

What is Asthma?

Asthma is a respiratory condition marked by attacks of spasm in the bronchi of the lungs, causing difficulty in breathing. It is usually connected to allergic reaction or other forms of hypersensitivity.

One in ten children in the UK has asthma, and there are likely to be several children with the condition in our setting. With proper treatment and support there is nothing to stop the vast majority of children with asthma leading a full and active life. This policy shows how Our Lady Star Nursery understands and supports children with asthma.

Nursery recognises that parents have the prime responsibility for their child's health and therefore should provide the nursery with the information about their child's medical condition on registration and induction.

Medicine and control

Relievers (blue inhalers) are medicines taken immediately to relieve asthma symptoms and are taken during an asthma attack. They are sometimes taken before exercise.

Preventers (brown, red, orange inhalers and sometimes tablets) are usually taken out of nursery hours

The signs of an asthma attack include:-

- Coughing
- Being short of breath
- Wheezy breathing
- Feeling of tight chest
- Being unusually quiet

When a child has an attack they will be treated according to their individual signed parental agreement for nursery to administer medicine (Form 3A)

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An ambulance will be called if:

- The symptoms do not improve sufficient in 5-10 minutes
- The child is too breathless to speak
- The child is becoming exhausted
- The child looks blue

When a child with asthma starts nursery we:

- Ask parents or carers about their child's asthma symptoms, how to recognise when their symptoms are getting worse and how to help them take their reliever medicine. This information will be recorded.
- Ensure emergency contact details of the parents or carers are recorded in case the child has an asthma attack.
- Ensure parents and staff know what to do if a child has an asthma attack.
- Allow children with asthma immediate access to their reliever whenever it is required.
- Ensure reliever inhalers are stored in a secure medicine cabinet.
- Remind children about their medicine especially if they need to take it before exercise. The child's key person will take primary responsibility for this.
- Be sensitive of children's sensitivity about taking medicines in front of others.
- Ensure the child takes their reliever medicine with them on trips and excursions.
- Always inform the parents if the child has experienced asthma symptoms and had to use their reliever medicine. To confirm the transfer of information a parent/carer signature will be requested.

Asthma policy

Key Points

Nursery:

- welcomes all children
- recognises that asthma is a condition affecting many children
- encourages and helps children with asthma to participate fully in activities
- ensures children have immediate access to reliever inhalers
- ensures the group environment is favourable and accessible to children with asthma
- ensures that other children in the group understand that asthma can be serious
- provides guidance for staff on what to do if a child has an asthma attack to ensure the child's welfare in the event of an emergency
- works with parents of children with asthma to ensure that their children are in a safe, caring environment
- promote action by parents and staff to actively support the nursery policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents/Carers need to:

- Provide written information detailing:
 1. what asthma medicines the child takes and when

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2. what triggers the child's asthma and what to do if the child gets worse
 3. emergency contact details
- Ensure any spare medicines stored by the setting are labeled (as by the pharmacist) and include date of issue and expiry, be clearly named and explain the dosage (as by prescriber's instructions).
 - Nursery holds an in date spare emergency inhaler in the locked first aid cupboard.

The setting needs to:

- Ensure a suitable asthma policy is implemented by the setting. The committee should monitor its implementation and review its progress
- Ensure the parents/carers of the children with asthma are informed about the policy and given a copy of the group's policy on asthma
- Ensure that training is made available to all staff

Key Persons need to:

- Have the knowledge, ability and confidence to care for a child with asthma
- Liaise with parents/carers of children about planning for and controlling their children's asthma
- Know what triggers a particular child's asthma
- Know where the child's asthma records are kept
- Know where the child's asthma medicines are kept and how they should be administered
- Know how to recognize if a child's asthma symptoms are getting worse and what to do if a child has an attack or in the event of an emergency
- Involve children who have asthma in sport and other activities
- Involve all children in learning more about asthma and what to do in an emergency

Manager/Deputy Manager

- Work in partnership with parents/carers and healthcare professionals to identify the needs of children with asthma and work with their personal asthma action plans to ensure that their asthma is effectively controlled
- Inform all parents/carers about the asthma policy of the setting and their responsibilities
- Ensure staff receive training about asthma and how to deal with asthma attacks
- Ensure that children have immediate access to the reliever inhaler
- Ensure that clear written records are kept for children with asthma, detailing information from the parents which will include:
 1. What medicine is to be taken
 2. When it is to be taken
 3. How it is to be taken
 4. How to tell when the child's asthma is getting worse and what to do if it gets worse
- Ensure the child's asthma medicines display the pharmacist's original label stating the child's full name, dosage and expiry date

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- Ensure that a record is kept each time a child takes their medicines
- Make sure the person collecting the child is informed if the child has had to take medicines
- Ask parents/carers to bring a spare inhaler to be kept at the setting in case of emergency
- Store spare inhalers marked with the child's full name in a locked cabinet
- Make sure inhalers are always taken on trips and visits
- Ensure key persons are confident to help a child with their medicines and decide who should administer the medicine when the key person is not available
- Ensure the group environment is as safe as possible for children with asthma.

Signature of Chair of Committee members: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Nursery Supervisor: _____ **Date:** _____