Lytham Church of England Primary School

Asthma Policy

To inspire everyone in our school family to be the best they can be within our caring Christian community.

Our strap line is, 'Together We Grow With God'.

Policy Statement

Lytham Church of England Primary School is committed to providing a fully inclusive environment where pupils with asthma can participate safely and fully in all aspects of school life. We recognise that asthma is one of the most common long-term childhood medical conditions and that effective asthma management is essential for pupils' health, wellbeing, attendance and achievement.

The school will comply with statutory duties relating to supporting pupils with medical conditions and will follow relevant Department for Education (DfE) guidance and Asthma + Lung UK best practice recommendations.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Ensure all pupils with asthma are safe and supported within school.

- Enable pupils with asthma to access a full curriculum, including PE, sporting activities, visits and residentials.

- Ensure all staff know how to recognise and respond to asthma symptoms and attacks.

- Promote partnership working between pupils, parents, healthcare professionals and school staff.

- Reduce unnecessary absence from school caused by poorly managed asthma.

- Ensure emergency medication is available when needed. [asthmaandlung.org.uk], [asthmaandlung.org.uk]

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body will:

- Ensure suitable arrangements are in place to support pupils with asthma.

- Monitor implementation of this policy.

- Ensure appropriate staff training is available.

- Ensure adequate insurance arrangements are in place.

The Headteacher will:

- Implement this policy.

- Ensure appropriate staff training is undertaken.

- Maintain an asthma register.

- Ensure Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs) are in place where required.

- Ensure emergency medication and equipment are available and accessible.

The school will appoint an Asthma Lead

The Asthma Lead will:

- Maintain the asthma register.

- Monitor Individual Healthcare Plans.

- Ensure expiry dates of emergency inhalers are checked regularly.

- Coordinate staff training.

- Liaise with parents and healthcare professionals where necessary.

All staff will:

- Be aware of pupils diagnosed with asthma.

- Know the signs and symptoms of worsening asthma.

- Understand emergency procedures.

- Allow immediate access to a pupil's reliever inhaler.

- Encourage inclusion in all activities.

- Follow Individual Healthcare Plans where appropriate.

Parents/carers are responsible for:

- Informing the school of an asthma diagnosis.

- Providing prescribed medication and spacer devices where required.

- Ensuring medication is clearly labelled and in date.

- Providing updated medical information.

- Completing permission for emergency inhaler use.

- Supplying an up-to-date Personal Asthma Action Plan where available.

Pupils will be encouraged, in an age-appropriate way, to:

- Understand their condition.

- Tell an adult when symptoms occur.

- Carry and use their inhaler where agreed.

- Take responsibility for medication as developmentally appropriate.

Asthma Register

The school will maintain an up-to-date register of pupils diagnosed with asthma.

The register will include:

- Pupil name

- Class

- Emergency contacts

- Medication prescribed

- Consent for emergency inhaler use

- Location of medication

- Relevant healthcare information

The register will be reviewed at least annually and whenever notified of changes.

Individual Healthcare Plans (IHPs)

An Individual Healthcare Plan may be developed where:

- Asthma is severe or poorly controlled.

- A pupil has required hospital treatment.

- Additional support is needed.

- Healthcare professionals recommend one.

Plans will include:

- Known triggers

- Medication requirements

- Warning signs

- Emergency procedures

- Contact details

- IHPs will be reviewed annually or sooner if circumstances change.

Storage and Access to Medication

Pupils with asthma must have immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times.

Where appropriate:

- Inhalers may be carried by pupils.

- Younger pupils' inhalers may be stored in a clearly identified and easily accessible location within the classroom.

- Inhalers must never be locked away.

- Spacer devices should be provided where prescribed.

All medication must be:

- Clearly labelled.

- Within expiry date.

- Stored according to manufacturer instructions.

Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler

The school will maintain an emergency salbutamol inhaler in accordance with Department of Health guidance.

The emergency inhaler may only be used for pupils:

- Diagnosed with asthma; or

- Prescribed a reliever inhaler; and

- Whose parents/carers have provided written consent.

The emergency inhaler kit will contain:

- Salbutamol inhaler(s)

- Single-use spacers

- Instructions for use

- Usage record forms

- Parent consent information

- A record will be kept whenever the emergency inhaler is used and parents will be informed as soon as practicable.

Asthma Triggers

The school will take reasonable steps to reduce exposure to known asthma triggers.

Possible triggers include:

- Pollen

- Dust

- Mould

- Smoke and vaping

- Animal fur

- Strong fragrances

- Air pollution

- Exercise when asthma is poorly controlled

- Viral infections

- Where identified, reasonable adjustments will be made to minimise exposure.

Physical Education, Sport and School Visits

Pupils with asthma will be encouraged to participate fully in PE, sports and educational visits.

Staff will:

- Ensure inhalers are readily available.

- Be aware of pupils' needs.

- Follow any Individual Healthcare Plans.

- Allow rest breaks where required.

Asthma should not prevent participation unless advised by a healthcare professional.

Recognising an Asthma Attack

Staff should be aware of the following signs:

Persistent coughing

Wheezing

Shortness of breath

Chest tightness

Difficulty speaking

Unusual tiredness

Increased distress or anxiety

A severe asthma attack may include:

Struggling to breathe

Rapid breathing

Inability to complete sentences

Blue lips or fingernails

Exhaustion or collapse

An asthma attack is a medical emergency and must be treated seriously.

Emergency Procedure

If a pupil displays asthma symptoms:

Keep the pupil calm and reassure them.

Help them sit upright.

Assist the pupil to take their reliever inhaler.

Follow their Personal Asthma Action Plan where available.

Monitor their response.

If symptoms do not improve:

Give one puff of reliever inhaler every 30-60 seconds through a spacer, up to 10 puffs.

Call 999 if symptoms worsen, do not improve, or if there is concern about the pupil's condition.

Continue giving reliever medication as advised by emergency services.

Inform parents/carers immediately.

A member of staff will remain with the pupil until help arrives.

Staff Training

The school will ensure:

All staff receive asthma awareness training.

New staff receive induction information regarding pupils with asthma.

Relevant staff receive additional training where required.

Staff understand how to use inhalers and spacer devices.

Emergency procedures are regularly refreshed.

Training records will be maintained.

Record Keeping

The school will maintain records of:

Asthma register entries.

Individual Healthcare Plans.

Emergency inhaler consent forms.

Staff training.

Medication administration.

Asthma incidents and emergencies.

Records will be stored securely in accordance with data protection requirements.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or earlier if:

Legislation changes.

DfE guidance changes.

Significant incidents indicate a review is necessary.

The Governing Body will monitor implementation to ensure effective support for pupils with asthma.

Signed**: Hannah Davies**

Date: **September 2026**

Review Date: **September 2027**

Agreed by Governors: **September 2026**