



## **ASTHMA POLICY**

### **Emergency treatment and emergency asthma inhalers**

Asthma is a common medical condition in the UK.

An emergency salbutamol inhaler should normally only be used by children:

- for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given,
- who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or
- who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.
- however, it may be administered outside these guidelines if deemed appropriate by the College Medical Officer.

### **The signs of an asthma attack**

- Persistent cough (when at rest).
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest at rest.
- Difficulty breathing (breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body).
- Nasal flaring.
- Not able to talk in complete sentences.
- May complain of chest feeling tight or express tummy ache.

### **In the event of an asthma attack**

- Reassure the child and keep calm.
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward.
- Ask someone urgently to call the Medical Centre to inform them that a child is having an asthma attack.
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them.
- Follow the pupil's emergency asthma action plan.
- If there is no improvement or the pupil appears to feel worse at any point call 999 for an ambulance and continue following the pupil's emergency asthma action plan.

- If the ambulance has not arrived after 10 minutes and there is no improvement continue following the pupil's emergency asthma action plan for a further 10 minutes (usually one puff of their blue reliever inhaler via a spacer every 30-60 seconds up to 10 puffs)
- If symptoms are no better after repeating the above and the ambulance has still not arrived, **call 999 again** immediately.

**Call an ambulance immediately if the child:**

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

**Further Information**

<https://www.asthma.org.uk/advice/asthma-attacks/>

<https://dulwichcollege.sharepoint.com/SitePages/Emergency-Asthma-Inhaler-Kit.aspx>

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<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Lead Nurse
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