



## Asthma Policy

Policy Reference:

To be reviewed by: January 2024 (every 3 years)

Policy Owner: Richard Potter

| Policy Progression Revisions |             |                        |
|------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Date                         | Reviewed by | Description of changes |
| January 2021                 |             | New Policy             |
|                              |             |                        |
|                              |             |                        |

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|--------------------|--|
| Date Approved      |  |
| Date Reviewed by   |  |
| Signature of Chair |  |
| Print Name         |  |

## The Principles of our College Asthma Policy

The College:

- recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many College students and welcomes all students with asthma.
- Ensures that students with asthma participate fully in all aspects of College life including PE.
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital.
- Keeps records of students with asthma and the medication they take.
- Ensures the College environment is favourable to students with asthma.
- Ensures that other students understand asthma.
- Ensures all staff who encounter students with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all College staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and students to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully.
- Encourages students with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of College life by having a clear policy that is understood by College staff, their employers (**the local education authority**) and students.

### Medication

Immediate access to a reliever inhaler is vital. Students are encouraged to carry their inhaler as soon as their parents, carer, doctor, nurse agree they are mature enough to manage their own medication. Students 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.

All inhalers must be labelled with the student's name by the parent. College staff are not required to administer medication to students except in an emergency. However, many of our staff are happy to do this. All College staff will let students take their own medication when needed.

### Record Keeping

At the beginning of each College year, or when a student joins the College, parents are asked to inform the College if their child is asthmatic. From this information the College keeps its asthma register. If any changes are made to a student's medication it is the responsibility of the parents or carer to inform the College.

Sir Harry Smith College does hold an emergency inhaler and spacer as per 'Guidance on the use of Emergency Salbutamol inhalers in colleges' March 2015. This medication can only be administered to students on the Asthma Register. Specific staff have been trained to administer the emergency inhaler.

Parents of students with asthma are sent a letter asking permission for the emergency inhaler to be used in the event that their own inhaler is not available. Parents will be informed by letter if their child has used the emergency inhaler in First Aid.

Asthma inhalers for each child are regularly checked for expiry dates by the College's Lead First Aider. Each student's inhaler is kept in First Aid in a named box containing their individual medication.

Taking part in sports is an essential part of College life. Teachers are aware of which students have asthma from the Asthma Register. Students with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. If a student needs to use their inhaler during the lesson, they will be encouraged to do so.

### College Trips and Outside Activities

When a student is away from the College classroom on a College trip, club, outside sport or PE, their inhaler should accompany them.

### The College Environment

The College does all that it can to ensure the College environment is favourable to students with asthma. As far as possible the College does not use chemicals in science and art lessons that are potential triggers for students with asthma. Students are encouraged to leave the room and go and sit in First Aid if fumes trigger their asthma.

### **Making the College Asthma Friendly**

The College ensures that all students understand asthma via assemblies and tutorials. Students with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for students and teens can be accessed from the following website [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk).

### Asthma Attacks

All staff who come into contact with students with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. The College follows the following procedure, which is clearly displayed in all classrooms.

1. Contact First Aid
2. Ensure that the reliever inhaler is taken immediately
3. Stay calm and reassure the student
4. Help the student to breathe by ensuring tight clothing is loosened

### **After the attack**

Minor attacks should not interrupt a student's involvement in College. When they feel better they can return to College activities. The student's parents must be informed about the attack.

### 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 student's parents or carers should always be contacted.

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