



STOWE SCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY

1) POLICY STATEMENT

- Stowe School is an inclusive community that aims to support pupils with asthma, ensuring they participate fully in all aspects of school life.
- It recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition which affects the airways to the lungs causing shortness of breath, cough, tightness in the chest and wheeze.
- Stowe School is aware that asthmatic pupils need immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times and must always carry one.
- All staff are aware of what to do if a pupil has an asthma attack
- Stowe Staff understand that pupils with asthma may be embarrassed about their condition and may suffer bullying because of it. Procedures are in place to prevent this
- Staff will work in partnership with other stakeholders, such as medical professionals, parents, pupils, etc to ensure this policy is planned, implemented and maintained successfully

2) Asthma medication

- Pupils must have their reliever inhaler with them at all times.
- Staff must ensure that any asthmatics pupils leaving Stowe for matches/trips/etc MUST have their “reliever” inhaler (blue). If away on a residential trip the pupil must also take their “preventor” inhaler plus any other prescribed medication.
- School Staff who have attended their *Administration of Medicines* training can also take an *Emergency Salbutamol Pack* in the event of a pupil’s inhaler becoming lost or runs out.
- Any oral medication is either kept with Matron in a locked cupboard as per *Stowe School Storage and Administration of Medication Policy* for the lower school, or if the pupil has been assessed as competent by a member of the medical team and completed a self medication form the pupil can administer their own medication. 6th formers are deemed as competent without this assessment form being completed.

- Pupils are advised to have a spare reliever to ensure they are never without if one has run out. They need to request a repeat prescription via their Matron or directly to the M/C. It is the pupil's responsibility to ensure their inhaler is in date.
- Medication only to be given to person named on prescription.

3) Record Keeping

- When a pupil starts at Stowe School an asthma diagnosis is usually identified on the Health History Form which is completed by a parent/guardian prior to arrival. We ask Parents to ensure that detailed information is given on this form with correct names and instructions for all medication and inhalers.
- Parental consent is required for school staff to administer Salbutamol in the event of an emergency
- All asthmatic pupils will have a Doctor and House Nurse appointment within the first half term. They are followed up regularly by their House Nurse.
- A care plan is devised, sent to parents for approval then uploaded onto Apollo for school staff to access as necessary.
- A hard copy is also kept in the M/C.

4) Exercise and Activity

- It is important that pupils are aware that exercise is important for good lung health and will help to improve asthma control.
- Pupils are encouraged to manage their asthma to enable them to be involved in all school activities.
- Pupils must have their reliever inhaler with them at all times.
- Staff should all know of any asthmatics pupils they teach to ensure they can check pupils have their inhalers with them.
- Any member of staff can ask for asthma training either through their House Nurse or via the M/C.

5) School environment

- Stowe School does all it can to ensure the school is favourable to pupils with asthma.
- There is a Smoking Policy which ensures all school buildings are smoke free.
- Risk Assessments are performed and followed for any potential asthma triggers.
- Pupils would be encouraged to leave a room immediately if particular fumes triggered their asthma.

6) When a pupil is falling behind in lessons

- If a pupil is noted to be missing a lot of school because of asthma symptoms, or asthma is disturbing their sleep a review of their asthma and medication would need to be done as soon as possible in conjunction with their House Nurse and the Medical Officer to resolve the problems.
- The school recognises that a pupil may have some special educational needs because of their asthma.

7) Asthma Attacks

- All Staff who come into contact with asthmatic pupils should know what to do in the event of an asthma attack. This is also identified on the pupil's individual care plan on Apollo and in hard copy format in the M/C.
- Posters can also be seen around the school.

8) ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Stowe School works in partnership with all relevant and interested parties including School Governors, all Staff, Parents, Pupils and the Medical Centre Staff to ensure the policy is planned, implemented and successfully maintained.

Asthma UK recommends the following roles in developing an asthma policy:

8.1 Employers:

Employers have a responsibility to:

- ensure the health and safety of their employees and anyone else taking part in school activities. This responsibility extends to those staff leading activities off site eg field trips, outings, etc. Therefore employers need to ensure an appropriate asthma policy is in place and trips are adequately risk assessed.
- make sure the asthma policy is effectively monitored and regularly reviewed/updated.
- provide indemnity for teachers who volunteer to administer medicines to pupils with asthma who need help.

8.2 School Staff

All school staff have a responsibility to:

- Understand Stowe School Asthma Policy
- To attend a First Aid Training Course.
- To attend Asthma Information Training provided by M/C

- Know which pupils they come into contact with who have asthma
- Know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
- Inform M/C immediately if a pupil has an asthma attack
- Ensure all asthmatic pupils have their reliever inhaler with them at all times
- Allow pupils who have been unwell time to catch up on missed work
- Advise a pupil to seek advice from M/C if tiredness is due to nocturnal asthma symptoms
- Look out and report any episodes of bullying
- Liaise with M/C if a pupil is falling behind on work due to asthma symptoms
- If a pupil experiences asthma symptoms, allow them time to stop what they are doing, take their reliever inhaler and return to their activity if symptoms are relieved and pupil feels well enough to continue (minimum 5 mins).
- Ensure pupils adequately warm up and cool down before and after activities
- Remind pupils who suffer from exercise induced asthma to take their reliever inhaler before warming up.

8.3 Medical Professionals

The Medical Professionals have a responsibility to:

- Develop/update/review individual asthma care plans and share with parents, pupil and school staff via the Apollo system
- To devise/update as necessary the school Asthma Policy (Senior Nurses). This process is overseen by the Medical Officer and is in line with local and national guidance.
- Offer asthma training to staff as required, to ensure all educational needs are met.
- Provide medical assistance if a pupil has an asthma attack
- Ensure pupils with asthma know when they need to seek medical help with managing their asthma and understand what the different inhalers are used for
- To conduct regular medication reviews (Medical Officer/Nurse Prescriber).
- To see all new pupils with asthma within the first half term of school (Medical Officer and House Nurse).

8.4 Pupils

Pupils have a responsibility to:

- Treat other pupils with and without asthma equally
- Let any pupil with asthma symptoms use their inhaler and ensure a member of staff is informed if the pupil is not well
- Treat all medication with respect
- Know how and when to take their asthma medication
- Ensure a member of staff and M/C contacted if someone having an asthma attack

8.5 Parents

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Inform the school if an asthma diagnosis has been made and what medication is taken
- Inform the M/C of any changes to treatment plan or any problems with asthma when pupil not at school
- Update the school after any Consultant/Hospital visits
- Give consent for the pupil to have an annual influenza vaccination
- Ensure pupil has medication and it is in date when they return to school after holidays/breaks
- Give consent for the administration of Salbutamol in an emergency by school staff

Sources of Reference:

- <https://www.asthma.org.uk/>
- <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/Pages/Introduction.aspx>
- <http://medicalconditionsatschool.org.uk/>