



## **ASTHMA POLICY**

At Albert Village Nursery we want every individual regardless of ability to be resilient, aspirational children who are equipped to succeed. We want children to be independent, competent and confident individuals.

### **The Principles of our nursery Asthma Policy**

- The nursery recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting many nursery children and welcomes all children with asthma
- Ensures that children with asthma participate fully in all aspects of nursery life including PE
- Recognises that immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital
- Keeps records of children with asthma and the medication they take
- Ensures the nursery environment is favourable to children with asthma
- Ensures that other children understand asthma (where possible)
- Ensures all staff who come into contact with children with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack
- Will work in partnership with all interested parties including all nursery staff, parents, governors, doctors and nurses, and children to ensure the policy is implemented and maintained successfully

This policy has been adapted from Albert Village Schools Asthma policy and all parents/carers of those children with Asthma have been consulted on behalf of their children.

1. This nursery recognises that asthma is an important condition affecting some nursery children and positively welcomes all children with asthma.
2. This nursery encourages children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of nursery life by having a clear policy that is understood by nursery staff, their employers (the local education authority) and children and their families. New staff are ALSO MADE AWARE OF THE POLICY. Where possible staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma regularly, from the school nurse who has had asthma training.

### **Medication**

Immediate access to a reliever is vital. The reliever inhalers for the children are kept in the nursery, in a high up cupboard, clearly labelled and accessible to adults only. Parents are responsible for the reliever should a new one be required and if possible provide a spare inhaler.

Nursery children are encouraged to use their inhaler independently, however nursery staff will assist if required and are insured by the local authority to do this. **All nursery staff will follow the information provided by parents/carers allowing for the child's thoughts also. There is always two staff present when delivering medication.**

### **Record Keeping**

At the beginning of each nursery year, or when a child joins the nursery, parents are asked about their child's health. This is ascertained via our Admission Form and the All About Me booklet. If medication changes in between times, parents/carers are asked to inform the nursery. If children with Asthma require and use their inhalers parents are notified at the end of the session and asked to sign the medication book.

### **PE**

Taking part in physical activity is an essential part of nursery life. Nursery staff are aware of which children have asthma from the allergy and medication register. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Parents/carers are made aware of PE days and asked as to which course of action they and their child requires.

### **The Nursery Environment**

The Nursery does all that it can to ensure the nursery environment is favourable to children with asthma. The nursery does not keep furry and feathery pets and has a non-smoking policy. The nursery does not use chemicals in any activities that could be potential triggers for children with asthma. Children are encouraged to talk to the nursery staff if at any time they feel unwell or feel that they require their inhaler.

### **Making the Nursery Asthma Friendly**

The nursery ensures that all children where possible understand asthma. Asthma can be included in all aspects of the curriculum. Children with asthma and their friends are encouraged to learn about asthma; information for parents/carers and children can be accessed from the following website [www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk).

### **When a Child is Failing to Progress to Their Full Potential**

If a child is missing a lot of time from nursery because of asthma or is tired when in nursery because of disturbed sleep and falling behind developmentally, the keyperson or Nursery Manager will initially talk to the parents. If appropriate the Nursery Manager may seek help and advice from the Area Inclusion SENCo, the schools Headteacher, the school nurse or the families Health Visitor or Doctor. The nursery recognises that it is possible for children with asthma to have special education needs because of asthma.

### **Asthma Attacks**

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

### **What to do**

- Keep calm
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward – do not hug or lie them down
- Make sure the child takes two puffs of reliever inhaler (usually blue) immediately – preferably through a spacer, following the instructions that are clearly labelled on the inhaler box
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened
- Reassure the child

### **After the attack**

Minor attacks should not interrupt a child's involvement in nursery. When they feel better they can return to nursery activities.

The child's parents/carers must be informed about the attack.

### **If there is no immediate improvement**

Continue to make sure the child takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve.

### **Emergency procedure**

#### **Call 999 or a doctor urgently if:**

- The child or symptoms do not improve in 5–10 minutes.
- The child is too breathless or exhausted to talk.
- The child's lips are blue.
- You are in doubt.

Ensure the child takes one puff of their reliever inhaler every minute until the ambulance or doctor arrives.

**A child should always be taken to hospital in an ambulance. Nursery staff should not take them in their car as the child's condition may deteriorate.**

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