



## Asthma Policy

### Rationale:

Asthma is a common, chronic lung condition that affects up to 1:4 primary school aged students and up to 1:7 teenagers. It is a common cause for school absenteeism and is a major cause of childhood admissions to hospital. People die from asthma and more than half of these asthma deaths are preventable. With appropriate management, the impact of asthma can be minimised.

### School Aim:

This plan has been developed to increase awareness and understanding of asthma and to actively support the whole school community in the effective management of asthma.

### Strategies:

School

- a healthy lung programme with an emphasis on asthma will be included as part of the whole of staff PD on health education.
- an information session will be held annually to update all school staff on asthma and its management.
- new staff will be briefed on asthma and its management.
- parents will be notified of school policy through letters home and the school newsletter.
- students with asthma are encouraged to take part in normal school sporting activities.
- the poster *Asthma First Aid* will be displayed in appropriate positions throughout the school.

### Student Asthma Records:

Each year, students with asthma must provide the school with information about their asthma. All student asthma records will be kept in the Front Office.

Students are able to bring appropriate asthma medications to school provided the parent has completed and returned the standard *Authority to Administer Medication Form* and that medications are properly labelled. Students should carry their blue reliever puffer at all times to be used immediately should symptoms develop.

A large volume spacer and blue reliever puffer shall be kept in the Asthma bag with the school First Aid Kit.

### School Health Environment:

For school sporting days, excursions or camps

- a minimum of one staff member capable of managing an acute asthma attack shall be present.
- parents will be notified of their responsibility to ensure that their child has an adequate supply of appropriate medication.
- parents will be requested to update their child's Student Asthma Record.

### School Physical Education:

- all students with asthma shall be encouraged to participate in sporting activities.
- students whose asthma is particularly troublesome may be exempt from sporting activities for the required period of time.