



CROW ORCHARD

Primary School and Nursery

Asthma Policy

Policy Lead	J Hollings HT Lead DSL
Date of Policy	September 2026
Agreed by	Governing Body
Next review	September 2027, or sooner following changes to guidance or a significant incident.

We learn with love, grow with purpose and stand strong through every challenge'. At Crow Orchard, we want every child to feel known, safe, valued and inspired. We are a *family* that supports and nurtures each other, celebrates learning and believes that every child can thrive.

This policy is underpinned by our core values of **Love, Growth, and Strength**, which guide every aspect of our practice:



1. Our Commitment

Crow Orchard Primary School is committed to ensuring that children with asthma are safe, fully included in school life and able to participate in learning, physical activity, educational visits and enrichment opportunities.

Asthma will be treated as a potentially serious medical condition. Staff will respond promptly to symptoms and will never prevent or unnecessarily delay a child from accessing their prescribed reliever inhaler.

This policy applies throughout school, including Nursery, Reception and Years 1–6, and during school-led activities and educational visits.

2. Identifying Children with Asthma

Parents/carers must inform school if their child:

- has asthma;
- has been prescribed a reliever inhaler;
- has a change to their medication or treatment;
- has recently experienced a significant asthma attack or hospital attendance.

School will maintain an up-to-date **Asthma Register** which will be overseen by Mrs Katie Spence. The register will be formulated with responses from parents/carers to our annual review of each child's medical information (School Spider form sent out each September). NB- parents/carers are responsible for updating this where there is a change in medical circumstance.

Relevant information will be shared with staff who need to know in order to keep the child safe.

Where a child's needs require additional planning, an **Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP)** will be developed with parents/carers and, where appropriate, healthcare professionals.

For Nursery and Reception children, particular consideration will be given to their ability to recognise symptoms, communicate how they are feeling and use their inhaler/spacer safely.

3. Inhalers and Spacers

Children must have prompt access to their reliever inhaler.

Inhalers must:

- be clearly labelled with the child's name;

- be within their expiry date;
- be stored safely but remain quickly accessible;
- accompany the child on educational visits and off-site activities.

Children who are sufficiently mature and competent may carry and use their own inhaler where this has been agreed with parents/carers and school.

For younger children, including children in Nursery and Reception, inhalers will normally be kept in an agreed, easily accessible location and an adult will provide the appropriate support.

Parents/carers are responsible for supplying prescribed inhalers and spacers and replacing medication that has expired or been used.

4. Emergency School Inhaler

Where the school holds an emergency salbutamol inhaler, it will be stored securely but be readily accessible in an emergency.

The emergency inhaler may only be used in accordance with national guidance, including for a child who:

- has been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed a reliever inhaler, or has been prescribed a reliever inhaler; and
- has the required written parental/carer consent;

and whose own inhaler is unavailable, unusable or empty.

School will maintain a record of children for whom consent has been provided.

Use of the emergency inhaler will be recorded and parents/carers informed.

5. Recognising an Asthma Attack

Staff should be alert to:

- persistent coughing;
- wheezing;
- difficulty breathing;
- tightness in the chest;
- difficulty speaking in full sentences;
- signs that a child is struggling to breathe;
- unusual quietness, distress or changes in behaviour, particularly in younger children.

Staff should take any concern about a child's breathing seriously.

6. What to Do During an Asthma Attack

If a child appears to be having an asthma attack:

1. Stay calm and reassure the child.

2. Sit the child upright.

Do not make them lie down.

3. Help the child access their reliever inhaler immediately.

Use the child's own inhaler and spacer in accordance with their treatment/healthcare plan. Use the school's emergency inhaler where this is permitted and appropriate.

4. Stay with the child and monitor them closely.

5. Follow the child's Asthma Action Plan/IHP and the school's emergency asthma procedures.

6. Call 999 if the child's symptoms are severe, are getting worse, or do not improve in accordance with their emergency treatment plan.

Tell the emergency operator that the child is having an **asthma attack**.

Parents/carers must be informed following an asthma attack.

Never leave a child who is experiencing significant breathing difficulties alone.

7. Physical Activity and School Life

Children with asthma will be encouraged to participate fully in PE, Forest School, outdoor learning, swimming, clubs, trips and other school activities.

Asthma should not routinely prevent participation.

Staff leading activities must know which children have asthma and ensure their reliever inhaler is readily available.

Children will be allowed to stop, rest and use their inhaler when necessary.

8. Educational Visits

Before leaving school, the responsible (named visit lead on the Evolve risk assessment) adult will ensure that:

- children's required inhalers are available;
- relevant medical information is known;
- emergency medication is accessible;
- appropriate staff know what action to take in an emergency.

A child will not knowingly be taken off site without access to essential asthma medication.

9. Staff Responsibilities

All staff should know:

- how to recognise the common signs of an asthma attack;
- where children's inhalers are kept;
- how to obtain emergency assistance;

- where the school's emergency inhaler is located, if one is held;
- which children are authorised to use the emergency inhaler.

Relevant staff will receive appropriate asthma awareness and emergency inhaler training.

Supply, teaching and temporary staff will be given the information necessary to respond safely to children's medical needs.

10. Parents/Carers

Parents/carers are expected to:

- provide accurate and current medical information;
- provide prescribed inhalers/spacers;
- ensure medication is labelled and in date;
- notify school of changes to their child's condition or treatment;
- provide requested consent and healthcare information.

School and families will work together to ensure that children receive consistent and safe support.

11. Recording and Reviewing

School will appropriately record:

- relevant asthma information;
- parental consent;
- administration/use of the school emergency inhaler;
- significant asthma incidents.

Following a serious incident or near miss, procedures will be reviewed and appropriate action taken.

12. Equality and Inclusion

Children with asthma will not be unnecessarily excluded from activities because of their condition.

School will make appropriate reasonable adjustments where asthma amounts to a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and will work with families and healthcare professionals to remove barriers to participation.



ASTHMA AWARENESS

Breathe
Support
Include
Make a
difference

Staff reminder – Know the signs. Take action. Support every child.

COMMON SIGNS OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK

A child may be having an asthma attack if they show any of the following signs:



Persistent
coughing



Wheezing



Difficulty
breathing



Tight chest



Inability to talk
in full sentences



Unusual quietness
or distress in
younger children

WHAT TO DO DURING AN ASTHMA ATTACK

1



Encourage the child to sit upright.
This helps them to breathe more easily.

2



Use the child's own inhaler, or the emergency inhaler
if appropriate.

3



Follow the school's Asthma Action Plan procedures.
Check the child's individual plan if needed.

4



Call 999 if symptoms do not improve or worsen.



ACT PROMPTLY

Asthma attacks can be serious.
Always take symptoms seriously
and follow the school's procedures.

Same inhaler.
Same routine.
A safer school
for everyone.



Our school community works together to keep every child safe.



Love



Growth



Strength