

Ewanrigg Junior School Managing Asthma (and other medical issues) Procedures

Functional medication

This type of medication is usually prescribed but is, in the main, necessary to ensure that a young person can function normally. In the event of an emergency, it will almost certainly need to be administered by staff. Should the medication be withheld, serious illness or even death could result. Such medication includes:

- Adrenaline – for treating anaphylactic shock (see SAN(M)2)
- Insulin – for controlling diabetes (see SAN(M)3);
- Ventolin etc. – for regulating asthma (see SAN(M)ab & 4b)
- Diazepam, Valium etc. – for treating or regulating epilepsy (see SAN(M)5)

Where functional medication must be given, staff should have training in the correct administration procedures. This task will be carried out by staff on a voluntary basis unless the employee is contractually obliged (the task is part of their job description). Such staff acting in accordance with policies, procedures, training and/or acting reasonably under the circumstances will receive the full support and indemnity of their Head teacher and employer in the event that anything goes wrong. General protocols for dealing with the administration of specific medications e.g. adrenaline, insulin etc. can be found in the corresponding safety advice notes guidance on the conditions they treat. Reference can also be made to the Model Asthma Policy.

Ewanrigg Junior School recognises the following key principles in relation to asthma.

Follows advice from Asthma UK – Asthma in Children

- recognises that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times
- keeps a record of all pupils with asthma and the medicines they take – copies of this should be kept in the child's own record folder, data file and staff travel pack
 - School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to pupils (except in an emergency), however many of the staff at this school are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the local education authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will let pupils take their own medicines when they need to.
 - **school staff** have a responsibility to:
 - Allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler
 - Tell parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack
 - Ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom
 - Ensure pupils have their reliever inhaler with them during activity or exercise and are allowed to take it when needed

- If a pupil has asthma symptoms while exercising, allow them to stop, take their reliever inhaler and as soon as they feel better allow them to return to activity. (Most pupils with asthma should wait at least five minutes)
- Remind pupils with asthma whose symptoms are triggered by exercise to use their reliever inhaler immediately before warming up
- Ensure pupils with asthma always warm up and down thoroughly.

As per Government guidelines an Emergency Asthma Inhaler Kit has been purchased. This is in Mrs Dawson's room, where the log for use is also kept

C Dawson