

Ribble Drive Primary School



Asthma Policy

RATIONALE

There will always be times in schools where pupils may require First Aid. We take this duty seriously and ensure that we always have sufficient trained First Aiders.

Thus, we will be enabled to realise both our Mission Statement:

"Be the Best You Can Be."

And our Disability Statement:

"To make all reasonable adjustments to ensure that any member of the school community with a disability is not placed at a disadvantage and to endeavour to anticipate their needs in advance of their participation in any activities within the school"

This policy applies to the **whole school**, including the EYFS

This policy supports **Article 3(Best Interests of the Child), UNICEF: The Convention on the Rights of the Child.**

At Ribble Drive we welcome all pupils with asthma into our school, we will:

- encourage all pupils to participate fully in all aspects of school life.
- recognise that pupils with asthma need immediate access to reliever inhalers at all times.
- ensure all other children understand asthma so that they can support their other friends.
- ensure that the whole school environment including the physical, social sporting and educational environment is favourable to all pupils with asthma.
- ensure all staff including supply teachers and support staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do if a child has an asthma attack.
- work in partnership with all interested parties including the school's local governing body, all school staff, school nurses, parents/carers, employment of school staff, doctors, nurses and pupils to ensure the policy is planned implemented and maintained successfully.

Parents or carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide school with written consent about their child's medical condition via the emergency form at the beginning of the school year.

Administration of Inhalers

Record Keeping

At Ribble Drive all inhalers are stored in the pupil's classroom for immediate access. They are labelled with the pupil's name on. Staff in each class are aware where the inhalers are kept for use in an emergency. Pupils are supervised whilst administering their inhaler and a designated member of staff is responsible for supervising the pupil. If a pupil uses the inhaler more frequently than normal, parents will be informed via a note sent home by the class teacher or a telephone call.

All inhalers will be returned to the pupil at the end of term to be checked, cleaned and, if necessary, new ones purchased.

Helping asthmatic children at Ribble Drive Primary School:

- Staff will ensure all asthmatic pupils take any necessary treatment before sport or activities.
- Staff will ensure relievers are readily available for use by asthmatic pupils when required.
- Staff will check with the pupil, parent/carer or school nurse that correct treatment instructions are supplied for school outings.
- Staff are aware materials brought into classrooms may trigger a pupil's asthma and additional treatment may be necessary. Where possible these materials are avoided.
- Staff will send home a note/contact the parent if a pupil requires a new inhaler.
- Staff will endeavour to act as an educator to pupil with asthma and their peers.

Attacks & Triggers

Infections such as colds and flu.

Irritants such as dust, cigarette smoke, fumes and chemicals. Allergies to pollen, medicines, animals, dust mites or certain foods. Exercise, especially in cold dry air.

Symptoms of an attack

In an attack asthmatics tend to take quick shallow breaths with wheezing and coughing, the pupil has a tight chest (not visible), rapid respiration and sometimes turns pale around the lips. Some pupils also experience coughing bouts and difficulties in speaking and walking.

Reacting to an emergency

The teacher should:

- Encourage the pupil to take reliever inhaler (blue)
- Allow the pupil space to breathe (no sudden change in temperature)
- Sit the pupil comfortably-do not let the pupil lie down
- Do not crowd the pupil and do not put your arms around the pupil, as this restricts breathing.
- Keep calm and send another pupil or staff member to find an adult/first aider.

If there is no improvement after 5 minutes and:

- The pupil has difficulty speaking and can only say two or three words
- The pupil is breathing quickly
- The pupil looks pale and lips may turn blue then...

Repeat the inhaler (up to 10/20 puffs) and a second adult dials 999. The first adult comforts and reassures the pupil during his/her attack at all times.

Ensure you inform the Paramedic how much inhaler has been used.

Minor Symptoms of Asthma

Minor symptoms should not disturb a pupil sufficiently to interrupt concentration and involvement in school activities. As soon as the symptoms have subsided, we encourage the pupil to continue with normal activities.

Revised: Autumn 2025

Review: Autumn 2026



HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK

The signs of an asthma attack are:

- Persistent cough (when at rest).
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest).
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body).
- Nasal flaring.
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- May try to tell you that their chest "feels tight" (younger children may express this as a tummy ache).

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

***** Never leave a pupil having an asthma attack *****

Do...

- Keep calm
- Encourage the pupil to sit up and slightly forward - do not hug them or lie them down
- Make sure the pupil takes two puffs of their reliever inhaler (usually blue) immediately - preferably through a spacer
- Ensure tight clothing is loosened
- Reassure the pupil

Following the use of inhaler, symptoms should improve.

If there is no immediate improvement; continue to make sure the pupil takes one puff of reliever inhaler every minute for five minutes or until their symptoms improve.

Call an ambulance urgently if any of the following

- The pupil's symptoms do not improve in five minutes
- The pupil is too breathless or exhausted to talk
- The pupil's lips are blue
- Has collapsed
- You are in any doubt

After a minor asthma attack

- When the pupil feels better they can return to school activities
- The parents must always be told if their child has had an asthma attack.