



POLICY	ASTHMA
DATE	Update March 2021
SCHOOL COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT	NA
REVIEW DATE	September 2022

PURPOSE

To explain to parents/carers, students and staff the processes Blackburn English Language School (ELS) will follow to safely manage asthma in students whilst at school or on school activities, including camps and excursions.

RATIONALE

It is important therefore for all staff members to be aware of asthma, its symptoms and triggers, and the management of asthma in a school environment.

AIM

To manage asthma and asthma sufferers as effectively and efficiently as possible at school.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Asthma attacks involve the narrowing of airways making it difficult to breathe. Symptoms commonly include difficulty breathing, wheezing, dry and irritating cough, tightness in the chest and difficulty speaking. Triggers include exercise, colds, smoke, pollens, cold air, deodorants, dusts, and thunderstorms etc.
- Children and adults with asthma may require daily or additional medication (particularly after exercise).
- Professional development will be provided for all staff at least every year on the nature, prevention and treatment of asthma attacks. Such information will also be displayed appropriately around the school.
- All students with asthma must provide to the school a completed up to date Asthma Action Plan developed by their treating practitioner.
- Asthma plans will be provided to classroom teachers and stored in the school office.
- If a student is prescribed asthma medication, they should bring their own to school. However, asthma medication is available for students at each campus.
- The school provides, and ensures staff are trained at least every year in the effective management of asthma, including the administering of reliever puffers (blue canister) such as Ventolin, Asmol and spacer devices.
- The school provides and maintains at least two asthma emergency first aid kits at each campus. One kit is kept onsite at the campus (First Aid room) and extra kits are available to be used for activities such as excursions and camps.
- Children suffering asthma attacks should be treated in accordance with their asthma plan. If no plan is available children are to be sat down, reassured, administered 4 puffs of a shaken reliever puffer (blue canister) delivered via a spacer – inhaling 4 deep breaths, wait 4 minutes, if necessary administer 4 more puffs and repeat the cycle. An ambulance must be called if there is no improvement after the second 4-minute wait period. Parents must be contacted whenever their child suffers an asthma attack.

Mobile asthma emergency kits are available:

- from the general office at each campus,
- to teachers on yard duty,
- for excursions, and
- for camps.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed every two years or after an incident or emergency