Asthma Policy

St Chad's Catholic Primary School

Approved by:	Martina Parker	**Date:**	September 2026
Last reviewed on:	September 2026		
Next review due by:	September 2027		

At St Chad's Catholic Primary School, we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of every pupil. In line with our Catholic values of care, dignity and inclusion, we ensure that pupils with asthma are fully supported to participate safely in all aspects of school life.

No pupil with asthma will be excluded from activities due to their condition.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Provide effective support for pupils with asthma.
- Ensure staff understand how to recognise and respond to asthma symptoms.
- Minimise asthma triggers within the school environment.
- Ensure quick access to inhalers and emergency treatment.
    - Comply with statutory guidance: *Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions* (DfE).

Definition of Asthma

Asthma is a chronic condition affecting the airways, causing inflammation and narrowing, which can lead to:

- Coughing
- Wheezing
- Shortness of breath
- Chest tightness

Asthma can be triggered by:

- Cold air
- Exercise
- Pollen
- Dust
- Viral infections
- Smoke
- Strong smells
- Stress or excitement

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place.

- Review the policy annually.
- Ensure sufficient staff training.

Headteacher

- Ensure implementation of this policy.
- Ensure an emergency inhaler is available (in line with UK regulations).
- Ensure staff receive annual asthma awareness training.

Medical Lead / School nurse

- Maintain an up-to-date asthma register.
- Collect and review Asthma Action Plans annually.
- Monitor medication expiry dates.
- Record asthma incidents.

Staff

- Be aware of pupils diagnosed with asthma.
- Know where inhalers are stored.
- Recognise signs of asthma symptoms and attacks.
- Follow individual Asthma Action Plans.
- Record incidents and inform parents.

Parents/Carers

- Inform the school of their child's asthma diagnosis.
- Provide a completed Asthma Action Plan.
- Supply an in-date reliever inhaler (labelled with child's name).
- Update the school if medication or condition changes.

Pupils

- Carry their inhaler if agreed and competent (with parental consent).
- Inform staff if feeling unwell.

Asthma Register & Action Plans

The school will:

- Maintain an up-to-date asthma register.
- Require all pupils with asthma to have a current Asthma Action Plan.
- Review plans annually or following a significant asthma episode.
- Share relevant information with staff on a need-to-know basis.

Storage and Access to Inhalers

- Inhalers must be clearly labelled.
- KS2 pupils may carry inhalers if responsible and agreed.
- KS1 inhalers will be kept in classrooms in a clearly identified, accessible location.
- Emergency inhaler stored at: classrooms, KS2 first aid bag bottom of KS2 stairs, KS1 first aid bag, cabinet in medical area.
- Spacers will be used in accordance with guidance.

Inhalers must be accessible at all times, including during PE and school trips.

Physical Activity

Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE and physical activity.

- Inhalers must be available during PE.
- Pupils may use their inhaler before exercise as prescribed.
- Staff must monitor pupils during cold weather or high pollen days.

Reasonable adjustments will be made under the Equality Act 2010.

Emergency Procedure

Signs of an Asthma Attack

- Persistent coughing
- Wheezing
- Difficulty breathing
- Unable to speak in full sentences
- Pale or blue lips
- No improvement after inhaler use

What to Do:

1. Keep the pupil calm and sitting upright.
2. Give 2–4 puffs of reliever inhaler (using spacer if available).
3. Give one puff at a time, encouraging 4 breaths per puff.
4. Wait 4 minutes.
5. If no improvement, give another 2–4 puffs.
6. If symptoms persist or worsen:
    a. Call 999 immediately.

    b. Inform parents/carers.
7. Continue 2–4 puffs every 4 minutes until emergency services arrive.

A member of staff will accompany the pupil to hospital and remain until parents arrive.

All asthma attacks must be recorded.

Reducing Triggers

St Chad's Catholic Primary School will:

- Maintain a strict no-smoking site.
- Ensure good ventilation in classrooms.
- Avoid strong chemical cleaning products during school hours.
- Monitor pollen levels where possible.
- Encourage good hygiene to reduce infections.
- Ensure dust control and regular cleaning.

Training

The school will ensure:

- Annual asthma awareness training for staff.
- Condition-specific training where required.
- Training during staff induction.
- Records of training are maintained.

Record Keeping

The school will securely maintain:

- Asthma register
- Asthma Action Plans
- Incident reports
- Medication records

All medical information will be handled confidentially in line with GDPR.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually by the Governing Body.
- After any serious asthma-related incident.
- Following changes in national guidance.