



Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools Policy (Summary)

School Name: St Saviour's School

Date policy was approved: January 2024

Review date: January 2027

Person(s) responsible for implementing Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools: Mrs Rachel Sablon

Person(s) accountable for overseeing Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools: Mrs Rachel Sablon

Recommendations and full Handbook can be found here: [Asthma and Allergy \(Children\) \(clarity.co.uk\)](https://www.clarity.co.uk/Asthma-and-Allergy-Children)

Aim	<p>The main aims of our Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools policy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide key information for schools so they can support pupils with asthma, wheeze, and/or allergies at school. Provide guidance on response to emergency asthma/wheeze attacks and anaphylaxis. Improve asthma and allergy-related communication between education and healthcare services. Reduce the number of children with poorly controlled asthma, wheeze and allergy in schools with the support of local health services.
Context	<p>Why is asthma/allergy/wheeze important to Schools?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 in 9 children has asthma/wheeze in Tower Hamlets. 40% of Tower Hamlets children have poorly controlled asthma and wheeze. 5-8% of children have a food allergy in the UK. Poorly controlled conditions can lead to: asthma/wheeze attacks or anaphylaxis, increased anxiety, increased sick days, failure to participate in exercise, and general poor health. Good care and support can help pupils manage their condition and limit asthma/wheeze attacks and anaphylaxis. <p>School's Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are responsible for providing general support for asthma/wheeze/allergy. They are not responsible for pupils' asthma/allergy/wheeze clinical care and will be reliant on other partners to provide this. Schools are required to have procedures in place to notify partners where medication or asthma/wheeze/allergy plans are missing or incorrect. Schools are expected to remind parents of what information needs to be shared and nudge them when this information is not provided <p>What are Asthma/Wheeze/Allergy?</p> <p>Asthma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a long-term health condition that affects how someone breathes When someone with asthma comes into contact with an irritant/trigger, like dust or animal fur, they can find it harder to breathe. Each pupil with asthma should have an asthma plan that explains how to care for their condition. Ideally, this should be personalised, but a generic plan should be used where this is not in place. The plans should cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When and how much preventer inhaler to use (normally brown).

- When and how much salbutamol (reliever) inhaler to use to treat asthma symptoms, like difficulty breathing (normally blue).
- Inhalers should be used with a spacer- a plastic tube that helps with breathing in the medication.
- The pupil's known triggers/irritants that could cause worse asthma symptoms.

Wheeze

- Wheeze is a breathing condition that effects young children where they find it difficult to breathe.
- It is caused by a virus.
- The child will make a high-pitched whistling sound when the pupil breathes
- It normally affects 0-5 year olds.
- Pupils will normally get better on their own, but some with more severe symptoms will be given a reliever/salbutamol inhaler.
- If you are concerned with a pupil's symptoms, you should contact the NHS- GP, 111, 999- depending on severity.

Allergy

- An allergy is when the body's immune system attacks a normally harmless substance, such as nuts.
- It is a long-term condition
- Antihistamines can be used to address more minor allergy symptoms.
- Anaphylaxis is a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. It can occur within seconds or minutes of exposure to something you're allergic to.
- Pupils who are allergic to a substance should avoid that substance to prevent anaphylaxis.
- A pupil will need to take an adrenaline pen in the event of anaphylaxis.
- Every pupil with a severe allergy should have an allergy plan that explains how to manage their conditions.

Overview

- The following needs to be in place to ensure the school is asthma/allergy friendly:
1. An asthma and allergy **policy**.
 2. **A register** of all pupils with asthma and allergies.
 3. **Schools ensure children can easily access their medication**
 4. **Individual Asthma and Allergy Care Plans for all children** with asthma or allergy
 5. **An emergency kit** including salbutamol inhalers, spacers, antihistamines and adrenaline auto-injectors.
 6. **Yearly all staff awareness training** on awareness, correct use of associated medical devices and emergency policies.
 7. **At least one named Asthma Champion** responsible for adherence to asthma and allergy friendly school standards in the school.

1. Policy

To be an Asthma and Allergy Friendly School- your school must have a policy signed off by your governing body- that is reviewed every 3 years.

2. Register

- The following need to be in place to meet the register requirement:
- An asthma and allergy register of pupils is held in the school and is reviewed yearly and updated when required.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This register will hold key information about all pupils with asthma/wheeze/allergy, including: their prescribed medication; whether the parents/guardians have given consent for the emergency kit to be used in an emergency; whether the pupil has a plan on file; etc. • It will enable schools to support children with their health condition. • All pupils with a prescribed blue inhaler should be listed on the register- even if they don't have an asthma diagnosis. Parents should also be contacted to give consent for the emergency kit to be used in the case of an emergency. • Find the asthma/wheeze/allergy register template on the Asthma and Allergy Page- click here. See AAFS Toolkit column.
<p>3. Access to Medication</p>	<p>Schools have the following responsibilities for access to medication for their pupils with asthma/wheeze/allergy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools will support all children with asthma/allergy/wheeze to have immediate access to their medication at all times. • Not all children with asthma, allergy or wheeze will have medication prescribed- depending on the severity of their condition- staff members should review a pupil's plan to identify any prescriptions. • Asthma/Wheeze- pupils should have access to their reliever inhaler (blue pump inhaler) and spacer- if they have a prescription- at all times. • Moderate/Severe Allergy- pupils should have access to two adrenaline pens- if they have a prescription at all times- staff should contact the pupil's school nurse where this is not in place. • More capable/independent pupils should be responsible for carrying their own medication. Schools should remind pupils of this and highlight the risks of not carrying it. • For pupils not capable of carrying their own, medication should be stored in an accessible location that is known to staff.
<p>4. Individual Care Plans</p>	<p>All children on the register should have a Generic School Asthma Care plan</p> <p>We are excited to introduce a new and simplified process for managing individual health plans within our school community. Recognizing the challenges associated with obtaining and updating individual plans, we have developed a streamlined approach to ease the burden on both schools and families. The new standard plan, designed to replace the existing individual asthma plan, aims to simplify the process for you. No longer will you need to spend time and effort chasing up information from GPs, families, or school health services. Here's how the new process works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan Duration: Once the individual plan has expired, families can complete the new standard plan. This plan will remain valid for the entire duration of the child's time in school, eliminating the need for repetitive documentation. It is crucial to keep a copy of the plan for reference.

2. **For New Students:** The standard plan should be used for all new students entering the school. This ensures a consistent and efficient approach to managing asthma-related concerns.
3. **Student Involvement:** In cases where students are deemed competent, they can sign the standard plan themselves. This is particularly applicable to secondary schools, where obtaining signatures from parents can be challenging.
4. **Residential Trips:** For students participating in residential trips, parents are required to fill out a medication administration form. Additionally, it is essential to ensure that the asthma plan accompanies the child during the trip.

We believe that this new approach will not only simplify the administrative process for schools but also enhance the overall management of asthma-related concerns for our students. Your cooperation and adherence to this updated protocol are greatly appreciated.

- **If a child has an Auto Injector pen they must have an Allergy Plan and should not be in school without one. All parents should be given a plan on administration of autoinjector pen. They only need updating if there is a change in medication or allergy.**
- School Health can case allergy team if this is not in school contact details: thgpcg.schoolnurses@nhs.net 02039507176
- **If a child has an Auto Injector pen they must have an Allergy Plan and should not be in school without one. All parents should be given a plan on administration of autoinjector pen. They only need updating if there is a change in medication or allergy.**
- School Health can case allergy team if this is not in school contact details: thgpcg.schoolnurses@nhs.net 02039507176

5. Emergency Kit

The following need to be in place to meet the emergency kit requirement:

The school is responsible for acquiring and maintaining emergency kit (s), including inhalers and adrenaline pens, to be used in the event of an asthma/wheeze attack or anaphylaxis- where the pupil's own medication is not immediately available.

Consent for use of the emergency kit can be obtained via generic plans, medical declaration form, personalised plan or via another mechanism. Whether the pupil or their parents/guardians have consented to the use of the emergency kit in the event of an emergency should be recorded in the register.

Number/Location of Emergency Kits (for reference in the event of emergency)

To be completed by school	
Number of emergency kits kept at the school	

Location of emergency kits	
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Acquiring Kit

- The school is required to purchase emergency medication and supporting equipment/documents from a local pharmacy.
- For the required contents of an emergency kit- see appendix 1.
- The following can be acquired via a purchase order sent to a local pharmacy- see template letter in Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools Toolkit- [click here](#).

Using the Kit

- Emergency medicines should be used if a pupil has an asthma/wheeze attack or anaphylaxis and they don't have access to their own medication.
- Medication should be used as instructed in the pupil's asthma/wheeze/allergy plan.
- All schools should have a process for storing asthma/allergy/wheeze plans and ensure that staff know where they are stored.
- The Asthma and Allergy Register will give a full list of pupils with asthma/allergy/wheeze plans to help with identifying if the pupil having an asthma/wheeze attack or anaphylaxis has a plan.
- For emergency medicines to be used, the following is needed:
 - Each pupil needs a signed Standard Asthma Care form where parental consent is given for use of emergency medicine.
 - A record of the prescription for the medicine- for pupils with asthma/wheeze this would be a salbutamol prescription; for pupils with allergy this would be an adrenaline pen prescription. Not all children with wheeze will have a salbutamol prescription.
- For pupils with an allergy, an adrenaline pen should only normally be used on a CYP without the consent of parent/carer/guardian if emergency medical services (e.g. 999) or other suitably qualified person advises this. However, where doubt exists then the adrenaline pen should be used as unnecessary delays have been associated with death.
- Staff members who have completed the online training are permitted to support the child to use the emergency kit.
- Asthma and Allergy Champions or other First Aid leads within the school may want to consider additional first aid training to support the use of the kit in an emergency.
- In the event of an asthma/wheeze attack or anaphylaxis and after a decision on using the emergency kit has been made:
 - The pupil's parents and guardians should be informed in writing.
 - Consider contacting the patients' GP or if urgent calling 999/ going to A&E.

Maintaining Emergency Kit

- The school has a responsibility for maintaining the emergency kit, including replacing used medication, storing medicines at the proper temperature and disposing used medicines properly.
- For more information- see appendix 2.

<p>6. Staff Awareness Training</p>	<p>Staff with significant contact with pupils should complete training to understand the basics of support for children with asthma/allergy/wheeze.</p> <p>This requires watching the below videos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asthma and Allergy Friendly Schools Introduction (6 minutes) • Asthma Awareness Training (30 minutes) • Allergy Awareness Training (20 minutes) <p>Note: On YouTube, click on ‘show more’ to have access to more relevant video clips and links. Please view the essential videos in the links. The additional time has been included in the watch time above.</p> <p>The school should promote this awareness training regularly and include it in the induction process for new starters. All staff with significant contact with pupils should complete it and should do refresh training every year.</p> <p>Schools also have a responsibility to communicate the following to staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to raise issues about pupils with uncontrolled symptoms or no/incorrect asthma/allergy/wheeze plan. • Where pupil asthma/allergy/wheeze plans are stored. • Where emergency kits are stored. • Where to find the asthma and allergy register. • Procedures for school trips, physical education and other settings outside the classroom/break time. • Where medication is stored. • Who their asthma champion/lead is at the school.
<p>7. Asthma Champion/Lead</p>	<p>The Asthma Champions/Leads is responsible for the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the asthma and allergy register. • Update the asthma and allergy policy. • Ensure measures are in place so that medication is accessible. • Working knowledge of all local asthma/allergy friendly school resources, including the full set of recommendations, and they are responsible for sharing key messages with other members of the school team • Oversight of emergency kits, including promotion to staff and maintenance <p>Responsibilities can be shared between School Team members. There should be clear agreement on who is responsible for each aspect of the role.</p>
<p>Healthy Lives Contact</p>	<p>Kate Smith Head of The Healthy Lives Team Tel: 0207 364 6433 Email: Kate.Smith@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p> <p>David Banks Healthy Lives Advisor Tel: 0207 364 6320 Email: David.banks@towerhamlets.gov.uk</p>

The full Asthma and Allergy Recommendations can be found here: [Asthma and Allergy \(Children\) \(clarity.co.uk\)](#)



Additional Information (Appendices)

Appendix 1- Emergency Kit Required Contents

- A salbutamol metered dose inhaler (MDI)
- At least two spacers compatible with this inhaler
- Two adrenaline-autoinjectors at each available strength
- Instructions on using the inhaler with spacer
- Instructions on using the adrenaline auto-injector are on the side of the device and on the allergy management plan
- Instructions on cleaning and storing the inhaler
- Manufacturers' information for inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors
- A checklist of inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors, identified by their batch number and expiry date, with monthly checks recorded;
- A note of the arrangements for replacing the inhalers, spacers and adrenaline auto-injectors;
- The names of the pupils permitted to use the emergency kit
- A record of any medication administration

Appendix 2- Maintaining Emergency Kit

- Check monthly that the inhalers, spacers and adrenaline pens are present and in working order, and that the inhaler has sufficient doses available and has greater than 3 months until expiry;
- Obtain replacement inhalers and adrenaline pens if the expiry date is within 3 months
- The inhaler can be reused, so long as it hasn't come into contact with any bodily fluids. Following use, the inhaler canister will be removed, and the plastic inhaler housing and cap will be washed in warm running water and left to dry in air in a clean safe place. The canister will be returned to the housing when dry and the cap replaced. Return to emergency kit after cleaning and drying.
- The spacer cannot be reused. Replace spacers following use.
- Empty inhaler canisters will be [returned to the pharmacy](#) to be recycled.
- Before using a salbutamol inhaler for the first time, or if it has not been used for 2 weeks or more, shake and release 2 puffs of medicine into the air
- The adrenaline pen devices should be stored at room temperature (in line with manufacturer guidance), protected from direct sunlight and extremes of temperature.
- Once an adrenaline pen has been used it cannot be reused and must be disposed of according to manufacturer's guidance as it contains a needle
- Used adrenaline pens can be given to ambulance paramedics on arrival or disposed of in a sharps bin (available from pharmacies or online) for collection by the local council;



Appendix 3: General Procedures

Schools should have asthma/allergy/wheeze friendly procedures in place for typical school situations:

Requesting Information from Parents

- Schools are responsible for requesting parents/guardians of new pupils complete a medical declaration form when joining school and at the start of each new school year. This should request information for:
 - Any physician-diagnosed of asthma/ viral wheeze/ allergy.
 - Any prescription of a reliever inhaler (salbutamol/terbutaline, **blue pump**) in the preceding 12 months.
 - Any previous severe allergic reactions including any associated acute triggers/allergens.
 - Any prescription of an adrenaline pen in the preceding 24 months.
 - Consent for the emergency kit to be used in the event of an emergency- if this has not already been provided.
- Schools are responsible for informing parents/guardians that they need to update the school where there is a change in a pupil's healthcare needs, including medication changes, changes in severity of condition, etc..
- Schools are responsible for reminding parents about these responsibilities to parents at appropriate intervals.
- The School Health team can support with contacting GP Practices about obtaining/reviewing a pupil's asthma/wheeze/allergy plan. School Nurses are not normally trained in prescribing and so cannot review a student's medication. This means that normally it is best for their GP Practice to review a asthma/wheeze/allergy plan.

Asthma/Allergy/Wheeze Plans

- Asthma/Wheeze/Allergy plans should be stored in a secure accessible place that is known to staff.

Exercise and Activity

- Exercise and activity is beneficial for pupils with allergy/asthma/wheeze and should be actively encouraged.
- Blue inhalers via a spacer should only be used before exercise when exercise is an identified trigger in the pupil's asthma/wheeze plan.
- Blue inhalers are normally used to relieve symptoms, such as wheeze/difficulty breathing, and not before these symptoms start.
- Some pupils will breathe heavily because they are not used to exercise- this does not always mean they are having asthma/wheeze symptoms. School staff should use their own judgment and consult with colleagues when unsure.
- If a pupil regularly has excess shortness of breath, chest tightness or cough with exercise, this will be communicated to the school nurse or their GP.

School Trips

- A risk assessment should be completed for pupils with asthma/allergy/wheeze.
- Staff should ensure pupils have their medication before departing for the trip.
- Staff should bring a copy of each pupil's asthma/allergy/wheeze plan.

On residential trips, some pupils may need to take preventer inhalers (brown top)- these are normally used once a day- outside of school hours. The pupil's asthma/wheeze/allergy plan should be reviewed before the trip to identify the need.