



Asthma Policy

Willingdon Community School

This policy was adopted in September 2024
This policy is due for review in Autumn 2025

Date to be reviewed by the Governing Body: 26th September 2024

To then be reviewed: September 2025

Staff Responsible: Andy Webb

Link Governor: Safeguarding Governor

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This policy should be read in conjunction with the school Vision Statement and Ethos of the School as detailed below.

We are Willingdon

We are a united, vibrant community which demonstrates personal excellence in all that we do. Learning at Willingdon transforms lives by igniting curiosity and expecting the very best from staff and students alike. We value opportunities, aiming for success today to prepare for challenges and opportunities tomorrow. We are respectful, honest and courteous to empower each other on our unique learning journeys. We look after ourselves and each other, and show empathy, respect and compassion to all people and our environment along the way. We encourage tolerance, resilience and reflection, which in turn allows everyone to make progress every lesson. We work together as a harmonious community to be the very best versions of ourselves.

This makes us Willingdon

Ethos

At Willingdon Community School, we aim to develop, in all our students, key values which we consider contribute to the achievement of what we refer to as, Personal Excellence.

Ambition

To strive to do your best on all occasions. Take on new challenges and challenge yourself to reach the highest possible standards and be personally successful.

Respect

To respect and value all members of our community, recognising and celebrating our differences. Respect ourselves, valuing what we can each bring to our community.

Compassion

Understand the needs of others and support those who sometimes need our help. Contribute to charitable work which supports those less well-off in the world.

Courtesy

Be well mannered in all situations, displaying the basic courtesies that we all value. Greet those you work with regularly; be particularly welcoming and polite to visitors and show appreciation for those who support and work closely with you.

Honesty

Always be honest, even when it may appear difficult. Be honest to yourself - know your strengths and your weaknesses.

Asthma Policy

At Willingdon Community School we recognise that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many children. Our school positively welcomes all children with asthma. We encourage students with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by the school staff and students. Supply teachers, sports coaches (and other extra-curricular providers, as appropriate), and new staff are also made aware of the policy.

Children can experience varying signs and symptoms of an asthma attack which may include:

- Persistent cough
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Being unusually quiet
- The child complains of shortness of breath at rest, feeling tight in the chest (which younger children may describe as a tummy ache)
- Difficulty in breathing (fast and deep respiration)
- Nasal flaring
- Being unable to complete sentences
- Appearing exhausted

Immediate access to reliever medicines is essential. Students with asthma are encouraged to carry their reliever inhalers on them, as soon as the parent/carer, doctor or asthma nurse agree they are mature enough. Within school, if provided to the school, the reliever inhalers can be kept in the Student Support welfare room with easy access. All inhalers held in Student Support, must be labelled with the child's name by the parent/carer and in its original box. It is the parent/carer's responsibility to ensure that their child has a pump in school. Use of asthma inhalers, if held by Student Support, are recorded via Medical Tracker. Parents are informed when their child has used their inhaler in Student Support by email.

The Governing Body has taken the decision to hold asthma inhalers on site for emergency use. These are held in Student Support. Written parental consent must be in place for these to be used by students. Emergency school inhalers will be administered by staff, only when trained in medicines administration. Their use will be recorded and parents will be informed.

[Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/61222/guidance-on-the-use-of-emergency-salbutamol-inhalers-in-schools.pdf)

School staff are not required to administer asthma medicines to students (except in an emergency), however many of the staff (trained in the administration of medicines) are happy to do this. School staff who agree to administer medicines are insured by the Local Authority when acting in agreement with this policy. All school staff will support children to take their own medicines independently when they need to, and as agreed with parents in their Individual Healthcare Plan (if required).

In an emergency (unexpected asthma attack), school staff are required to act as any reasonable prudent person would. This may include administering emergency medicine.

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Staff will:

- Keep calm-do not panic
- Send for a qualified first aider-do not move the child
- Make sure that the specific directions of the reliever inhaler are followed
- Loosen clothing
- Reassure the pupil.

If there is no immediate improvement during an attack, continue to follow instructions of the reliever inhaler until symptoms improve.

CALL 999 if:

- The pupil's lips turn blue
- If you are in any doubt about the child's condition.

When a child joins the school, parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma on their enrolment form. Our parent communications and information app (Arbor), can be updated with real time updates; if a medical diagnosis has been sought and agreed by a doctor, a parent/carer should ensure they update the school and their child's Arbor account.

At our school children with critical asthma have an Individual Healthcare Plan. Parents/carers are asked to complete these with appropriate school staff. From this information, the school keeps its critical asthma register. This is available for all staff to see. Parents/carers are asked to update this information annually or as required. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure that any changes to their child's asthma medication or administration of this are updated.

Taking part in sports, games, trips, and other physical activities is an essential part of school life for all students. All teachers know which children in their class have asthma. All sports coaches/PE staff are aware of which students have asthma from the school's asthma register. Any off-site activity must include the child's asthma kit.

Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all PE lessons. Teachers will remind children whose asthma is triggered by exercise when they need to take their reliever inhaler; this might be before the active session. Their reliever inhaler will be taken with them to the room/area where the physical activity will take place and they will be able to use it if necessary.

The school does all that it can to ensure that the school environment is favourable to children with asthma. The school has a definitive no smoking policy. The school limits the use of any chemicals or aerosols. If at any time a particular fume is causing a child with asthma discomfort, they will be allowed to leave the room until the air clears.

If a child is missing a lot of time at school or is nearly always tired because their asthma is disturbing their sleep at night, the class teacher will initially talk to the parent/carer to work out how to prevent their child from falling behind. The school recognises that it is possible for

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children with asthma to have special educational needs in addition to their asthma. The school is aware that there may be safeguarding concerns if a child's asthma medication is out of date or unavailable.

The person responsible for updating the asthma register and checking the expiration dates of students' asthma medication is Rosie Beddows, Student Support Manager.