



Asthma policy and procedure

Asthma is a long-term condition that can cause a cough, wheezing and breathlessness. The severity of the symptoms varies from person to person. Asthma can be controlled well in most people most of the time. In the UK, 5.4 million people are currently receiving treatment for asthma. That is 1 in every 12 adults and 1 in every 11 children.

Asthma is caused by inflammation of the airways. This makes it difficult to breathe and causes wheezing and coughing. It may also make the chest feel tight.

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/asthma/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

It is the policy of Berriew Pre-school to promote an effective partnership between all concerned to promote the safety, welfare and best interests of any child with asthma in our care.

We do this by:

- Encouraging and supporting children with asthma to participate fully in activities.
- Ensuring children have immediate access to their reliever inhalers.
- Providing guidance for staff on what to do if a child has an asthma attack and ensuring the child's welfare in the event of an emergency. This includes:
 - Access to appropriate asthma training for staff as needed.
 - Key workers/staff recognising when a child's asthma symptoms worsen.
- Ensuring that parents/carers of children who develop asthma after they have started at Berriew Pre-school are informed about this policy and given a copy.

When a child with asthma attends the setting we discuss their needs with their parents/carers.

This includes:

- Discussing the level or degree of the child's condition.
- Establishing how we can recognise when symptoms get worse – any triggers that the child is known to be sensitive to.
- Ensuring the child has immediate access to their reliever inhaler as prescribed, keeping it in an easily accessible place and making sure all relevant people - especially the child - know where to find it.
- Ensuring that written records are kept clearly detailing information of what medicine is to be taken, when and how often.



- Informing parents/carers that:
 - The inhaler must be prescribed for the child, labelled clearly with their full name.
 - It must not have passed its expiry date.
 - A record is kept each time a child takes their inhaler.
 - Medication left in the setting must be checked regularly and parents informed if and when replacements are needed.
- Asking parents/carers to bring a spare inhaler to be kept at our provision in case of an emergency.
- Keeping and using emergency contact details for next of kin but in the case of an emergency dial 999 (in line with our registration form).
- Making sure the person collecting the child is informed if the child has had to take their medicines and to sign the form (in line with our medication policy).
- Making sure that inhalers are always taken on our trips (in line with our outings policy).
- Parents/carers are also referred to our admissions and equality and inclusion policies and procedures.

This **asthma** policy and procedure was passed for use in Berriew Pre-school.

On:

By:

Position:

Date of planned review: