



## **Bournmoor Primary School SCHOOL ASTHMA POLICY**

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body to ensure that all reasonable and practical steps are taken to safeguard the health and safety of pupils when they are authorised to be on school or other educational premises or where they are engaged in authorised activities elsewhere.

### **Asthma Education**

The school should have a responsibility to advise all its staff on practical asthma management. The school nursing service could be involved to advise and offer support.

### **Parents**

The School should ask all parents whether their child has asthma. It would help to keep a register of all asthmatic children and this could include details of the treatment that each child uses and in particular any inhalers which need to be used at school.

### **Access to Inhalers**

Reliever inhalers (usually blue) are of particular importance. It is essential that the child has access to this inhaler at all times. A delay in taking this treatment can lead to a severe attack and in rare cases could be fatal. Relievers commonly used are: Salbutamol, Ventolin, Salamol, Aerolin, Bricanyl, Terbutaline.

The Teacher should encourage the child to have easy access to their reliever inhaler on school trips, on the sports field and at break and lunchtimes.

As a school we keep spare inhalers for those children prescribed to use them. We follow Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in school, as provided by the Department of Health.

### **Nebulisers**

Children with severe asthma may use an electric compressor called a nebuliser to deliver the asthma drugs. The school nurse or the child's GP should liaise with the school to give correct management advice for these children.

### **Sports**

Sports teachers should be aware that a number of pupils with asthma take a dose of their reliever inhaler before exercise, and may need to use their inhaler again on the sports field or in the swimming pool. If a child seems over-reliant on their inhaler then this concern should be communicated to the child's parent as this may mean that the child's asthma is poorly controlled.

### **Trigger Factors**

Many things can trigger an asthma attack. This may be because of allergy to eg, pollen or animal hair but just as important are irritants such as cigarette smoke or chemical fumes. Every attempt should be made to ensure that asthmatics are not exposed to cigarette smoke. Care may also be taken if pets are kept in the classroom. Similarly it is good practice to use fume cupboards in science rooms to avoid fume inhalation.