



## Langley Grammar School

### Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhaler

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Guidance

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#### **Guidance**

From 1 October 2014 schools are allowed to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. Schools are not required to hold an inhaler – this is a discretionary power enabling schools to do so if they wish.

The emergency inhaler should only be used by students, for whom written parental consent for the use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have either been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication.

A register of students diagnosed with asthma and specific consent for the use of emergency salbutamol inhaler is held in Student Support along with the inhaler, spacer and the log for administering the emergency inhaler.

If a student suffers from an asthma attack and they do not carry their own inhaler or their own inhaler is empty or broken, a check must be made to see if there is a second inhaler in the student's name which is held in Student Support. These inhalers are kept in an unlocked cabinet inside the Student Support Office and are stored in alphabetical order. If no named inhaler is available or one has failed to function and a consent form for the use of an emergency inhaler has been signed (this form differs and is in addition to the medical emergency consent form), the emergency inhaler can be used. This must be supervised by a First Aid trained member of staff.

Once the emergency inhaler has been administered, a log is kept and parents/carers will be informed verbally by phone and in writing (see sample letter – annex D).



# **HOW TO RECOGNISE AN ASTHMA ATTACK**

## **The signs of an asthma attack are:**

- Persistent cough (when at rest)
- A wheezing sound coming from the chest (when at rest)
- Difficulty breathing (the child could be breathing fast and with effort, using all accessory muscles in the upper body)
- Nasal flaring
- Unable to talk or complete sentences. Some children will go very quiet.
- May try to tell you that their chest ‘feels tight’ (younger children may express this as tummy ache)

## **CALL AN AMBULANCE IMMEDIATELY AND COMMENCE THE ASTHMA ATTACK PROCEDURE WITHOUT DELAY IF THE CHILD**

- appears exhausted
- has a blue/white tinge around lips
- is going blue
- has collapsed



## **WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF AN ASTHMA ATTACK**

- Keep calm and reassure the child
- Encourage the child to sit up and slightly forward
- Use the child's own inhaler – if not available, use the emergency inhaler
- Remain with the child while the inhaler and spacer are brought to them
- Immediately help the child to take two puffs of salbutamol via the spacer
- If there is no immediate improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes, up to a maximum of 10 puffs
- Stay calm and reassure the child. Stay with the child until they feel better. The child can return to school activities when they feel better
- **If the child does not feel better or you are worried at ANYTIME before you have reached 10 puffs, CALL 999 FOR AN AMBULANCE**
- If an ambulance does not arrive in 10 minutes give another 10 puffs in the same way



# **CONSENT FORM: USE OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER Langley Grammar School**

1. I can confirm that my son/daughter has been diagnosed with asthma/has been prescribed an inhaler [delete as appropriate].
2. My son/daughter has a working, in-date inhaler, clearly labelled with their name, which they will bring with them to school every day.
3. In the event of my child displaying symptoms of asthma, and if their inhaler is not available or is unusable, I consent for my child to receive salbutamol from an emergency inhaler held by the school for such emergencies.

Child's name	
Form:	
Parent name	
Parent signature	
Date	



Log for use of emergency inhaler

**Log for the use of emergency  
Salbutamol inhaler**

<b>Date</b>		
<b>Student name</b>		
<b>Form</b>		
<b>Dosage given &amp; any other action taken</b>		
<b>Parent informed</b> (circle as appropriate)	<b>by phone</b>	<b>in writing</b>

<b>Date</b>		
<b>Student name</b>		
<b>Form</b>		
<b>Dosage given &amp; any other action taken</b>		
<b>Parent informed</b> (circle as appropriate)	<b>by phone</b>	<b>in writing</b>

<b>Date</b>		
<b>Student name</b>		
<b>Form</b>		
<b>Dosage given &amp; any other action taken</b>		
<b>Parent informed</b> (circle as appropriate)	<b>by phone</b>	<b>in writing</b>



## LETTER TO INFORM PARENTS OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE

<b>Date</b>	
<b>Student name</b>	
<b>Form</b>	

Dear.....,

This letter is to formally notify you that your son/daughter has had problems with his/her breathing today. This happened when

Their own inhaler:

- was not functioning
- they did not have their own inhaler on them (circle as appropriate)

As a consequence, they used the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol.

Amount of puffs given:

Yours sincerely,