

Asthma Policy



Approved by:	The Board of Governors	Date: 31 st of August 2026
Last reviewed on:	1 st September 2025	
Next review due by:	31 st August 2027	

1. Introduction

Eden Park Academy recognises that asthma is a widespread, potentially serious but controllable condition. Our aim is to support all pupils with asthma so they can participate fully in school life. Line managers are responsible for ensuring all staff are aware of, and understand, this policy and any future updates.

Regulatory compliance: This policy complies with all relevant UK regulations and guidance, including the Department of Health's advice on supporting pupils with medical conditions at school.

Asthma affects the small airways in the lungs. Triggers cause airway narrowing, swelling, and increased mucus, making breathing difficult. Common triggers include exercise, cold air, allergens, or infections.

Eden Park Academy is committed to:

- Maintaining a current asthma register
- Keeping this asthma policy updated and available
- Nominating a named asthma lead and champions
- Ensuring all pupils with asthma have immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times
- Displaying Accessible Emergency Salbutamol Plans
- Keeping an emergency salbutamol inhaler and spacer on site
- Ensuring all staff have regular asthma training
- Promoting asthma awareness among pupils, parents, and staff

2. Asthma Register

- The school maintains an asthma register of all pupils diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, updated termly.
- Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child is diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler. Diagnosis or a prescription from a GP or asthma clinic must be provided.
- Each pupil on the register must have:
 - An up-to-date personal asthma action plan (provided by their doctor/asthma nurse)
 - A reliever inhaler (salbutamol/terbutaline) in school at all times
 - Parental consent for use of the school's emergency inhaler in case their own is broken, lost, empty, or expired

3. Asthma Lead and Champions

- **Asthma Lead:** The Asthma Lead is responsible for the asthma register, policy updates, emergency inhaler management, and ensuring pupils have immediate access to inhalers.
 - The Lead First Aider for Eden Park Academy is **Brenda Baptiste**.
- **Asthma Champions:** Designated staff to assist the lead and coordinate asthma support in school. Names are displayed in the staff room and main office. The champions are:

Ms Brenda Baptiste

Ms Sharon Davis

Mr Joshua Clarke

Ms Reny Aljouma

Medication and Inhalers

- All children with asthma must have immediate access to their reliever inhaler at all times (usually blue).
- Preventer inhalers (usually brown, orange, or purple) are generally taken at home, unless a residential trip is planned.
- Children are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler when they are responsible enough; younger children's inhalers are kept in an unlocked medical cabinet in the classroom or in a labelled medical bag with a member of staff.
- Staff are not required to administer asthma medicines but may supervise or assist if trained and willing, especially if a pupil is struggling with inhaler technique.
- Any concerns about a pupil's inhaler use will be referred to the school nurse and parents/carers.

4. Accessible Emergency Salbutamol Plans

- Emergency asthma plans and clear posters are displayed throughout the school, highlighting:
 - Signs of an asthma attack
 - Emergency treatment steps
 - When to call for further help

5. Staff Training / School Environment

- All staff will receive annual asthma training, including recognising symptoms and emergency management, delivered by a qualified health professional.

- The school has a strict no-smoking policy.
- Pupils' individual triggers are recorded and steps taken to minimise exposure (e.g. dust, pollen, animals, chemicals, cold air, stress).
- Staff perform risk assessments for school activities and trips to identify and reduce asthma triggers.
- All staff are aware of which children in their class or group have asthma (via the asthma register).
- Pupils with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in all activities, including PE and school trips. Inhalers are accessible during physical activity.
- If asthma impacts learning or participation (e.g. fatigue, frequent symptoms), parents/carers are notified and advised to seek a medical review. The school may also contact the local asthma nurse with consent.
- Pupils with severe or poorly controlled asthma may be regarded as having a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and will be supported accordingly.

6. Emergency Salbutamol / Ventolin Inhaler in School

- Eden Park Academy keeps an emergency salbutamol (blue) inhaler and spacers on site, in accordance with the Department of Health's March 2015 guidance.
- The emergency inhaler and kit are stored in the medical room, with instructions and a list of pupils permitted to use it (with written parental consent).
- Emergency kits contain:
 - A salbutamol inhaler
 - Two compatible spacers (single use)
 - Instructions for use and cleaning
 - Manufacturer's information and batch numbers
 - Monthly checklists for expiry and maintenance
 - Record of administration
- Only pupils diagnosed with asthma or prescribed a reliever inhaler, and with written parental consent, may use the school's emergency inhaler.
- After any use of the emergency inhaler, parents/carers are informed in writing, and a record is kept. The inhaler is not sent home with the child.

Common Day-to-Day Symptoms

- Dry cough
- Wheeze (especially on exertion)

- Shortness of breath
- Tight chest

Most symptoms can be managed with inhaler use and rest, and usually do not require the child to be sent home or urgent medical attention unless they do not improve.

7. Asthma Attacks

Signs of an Asthma Attack

- Persistent cough (especially at rest)
- Wheezing (at rest)
- Difficulty breathing (fast, laboured breathing)
- Nasal flaring
- Inability to talk or finish sentences
- Child going very quiet or complaining of chest tightness (or tummy ache in younger children)
- Lips turning blue/white or collapse (medical emergency)

Emergency Procedure

1. **Keep calm and reassure the child**
2. **Sit child upright, slightly forward**
3. **Use the child's own reliever inhaler (spacer if available)**
 - If not available, use the school's emergency inhaler (if parental consent is on file)
4. **Administer two puffs via spacer, one puff at a time, with 5 breaths per puff**
5. **If no improvement, continue up to 10 puffs**
6. **Call 999 immediately if:**
 - The child does not feel better after 10 puffs
 - You are worried at any time
 - The child is blue, collapsed, or extremely exhausted
7. **If the ambulance takes more than 15 minutes, repeat up to 10 puffs**
8. **A staff member will always accompany a child taken to hospital until a parent/carer arrives**
9. **After any attack:**
 - Inform parents/carers and advise follow-up with GP or asthma nurse
 - If 10 or more puffs were needed in 4 hours, advise parents to seek urgent review or A&E

8. References

- Asthma UK website
- Department of Health (2015) Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools
- British Thoracic Society/Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (BTS/SIGN) asthma guideline
- Equality Act 2010

Eden Park Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. Working together, we ensure every child is empowered to learn, thrive, and achieve.

Lead First Aider: Brenda Baptiste

Headteacher: Gina Abbequaye

