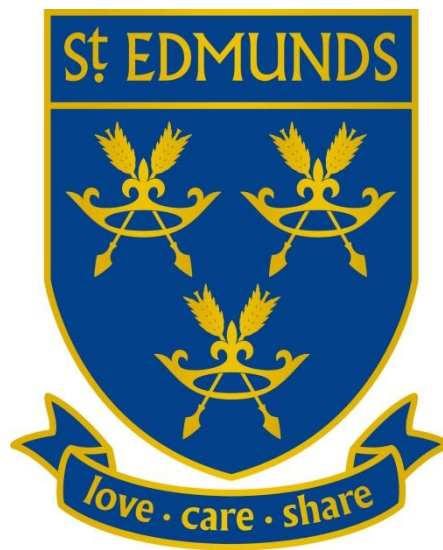

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School



Asthma Emergency Medication Policy

September 2022

Mission statement

Love, Care, Share

St. Edmund's Catholic Primary is a community of faith where we aim to keep Christ at the centre of everything we do. We celebrate the uniqueness of every individual nurturing them to achieve their full potential. Our understanding and experience of the love of God grow through our way of living, behaving, learning, and teaching, which is inspired by Jesus.

Our Mission Statement encapsulated in "To Love, Care, Share", along with our Catholic values and the teaching of the Catholic Church, underpin the values of this policy.

Context

From 1st October 2014, the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 allow schools to buy salbutamol inhalers, without a prescription, for use in emergencies. **The emergency salbutamol inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for 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.** The inhaler can be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is broken, or empty).

This policy has been written in line with information provided by the Department of Health - Guidance on the use of Salbutamol inhalers in school 2014, NHS – London schools' guide for the care of children and young people with asthma 2016, and the schools' health service.

St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school that supports children with medical needs in all aspects of school life and encourages them to achieve their full potential.

This will be done by:-

- Having a policy in place that is developed in conjunction with the local authority and understood by all school staff.
- Ensuring relevant support staff (including new staff) regularly receives training about asthma and administering emergency medicines.
- Ensuring information and records are shared appropriately.

What to do when a child with asthma or a prescribed inhaler joins St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School?

When a child with asthma or a prescribed inhaler joins St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School or a current pupil is diagnosed with the condition:

- Parents will be given an Asthma Plan to complete (see appendix 1)
- If necessary the SENCO will arrange a meeting with the parents, class teacher, school nurse (if applicable), and the welfare assistant, to establish how the pupil's medical condition may affect their school life, e.g. their learning, social skills, and out of school activities. Any special arrangements the pupil may require will be discussed, e.g. extra time in exams/tests, any additional staffing support, or implications of care on school trips.

Record Keeping

When joining the school (in Reception or at any other time), parents/carers are asked if their child has any medical conditions including asthma during the enrolment process. A record of pupils with asthma or a prescribed inhaler is kept in the Welfare office and information shared with relevant class staff.

From this information, all parents/carers of children with asthma/prescribed inhalers are given a School Asthma Plan to complete and return to the school. This form will be kept safe and updated yearly and when necessary.

Use of the emergency inhaler will be recorded and parents/carers informed in writing (see Appendix 3&4). This will include where and when the attack took place (e.g. PE lesson, playground, classroom), how much medication was given, and by whom. The letter in Appendix 4 will be used to notify parents.

Parents will be notified each time a child uses their own salbutamol inhaler via a wristband given to the child.

Medicines

After the individual asthma plan has been completed, the school will identify further training if needed to meet the individual needs of the pupil. This may include a specialist training session with the school nurse, who will go through the individual care plan and emergency medication in-depth with the class team and any other adults who work closely with the pupil.

The individual asthma plan will include parent/carer consent for trained members of staff to administer emergency medicines such as salbutamol inhaler and it will identify any first aid issues of which staff needs to be aware.

The school has an up to date list of trained first aiders.

The emergency medication will be stored in a secured bag in the welfare office cupboard, which is easy to access in case of an emergency.

First Aid

The following procedure is followed to give basic first aid for asthma:

1. Stay calm
2. Immediately help the child to take two separate puffs of salbutamol via the spacer
3. If no improvement, continue to give two puffs at a time every two minutes up to a maximum of ten puffs
4. Encourage to take slow steady breaths and reassure the child.
5. Monitor any improvement in breathing
6. Ambulance to be called if breathing worsens or becomes unconscious.

Learning and Behaviour

St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School recognizes its duties as detailed in Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Some children with medical conditions may be considered to be disabled under the definition set out in the Equality Act 2010. Where this is the case, this school complies with its duties under that Act. Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision. For children with SEN, this policy should be read in conjunction with the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) code of practice.

Where necessary, and with the parent's permission, asthma will be addressed with children in the same class as the pupil in a way that they will understand. This will ensure the child's classmates are not frightened if the child has an asthma attack in class and promote the ethos of our school 'Love, Care, Share'.

School Environment

St. Edmund's Catholic Primary School recognizes the importance of having a school environment that supports the needs of children with asthma. There are spare emergency salbutamol inhalers and spacers onsite and a bed in the medical room in case a pupil needs a supervised rest following an attack.

Each class is notified of any pupil with asthma and staff will be notified of any changes in the pupil's condition through regular staff updates. This will make staff aware of any special requirements, to help monitor if the student is having an attack and missing part of the lesson.

Members of staff working with the child will be given a brief action plan/flowchart (see Appendix 2) to follow in case of an asthma attack. The office staff know what to do in an emergency and will ensure that the relevant phone calls are made, and relevant paperwork is made ready for the emergency services.

The above asthma policy applies equally within the school and at any outdoor activities organized by the school. This includes activities taking place on the school premises, and residential stays. Any concerns held by the pupil, parent, or member of staff will be addressed at a meeting before the activity or stay taking place

Offsite visits

It is expected that children will participate in trips and if necessary additional staffing will be identified to enable them to access their learning outside the classroom.

*Appendix 1: Asthma Plan for parent/carer to complete.

St Edmund's Catholic Primary School
ASTHMA PLAN

Child's Name _____ Class _____

My inhaler is (name/colour) _____ I take _____ puffs of my inhaler using a spacer*.

Please tick as appropriate

<input type="checkbox"/>	I can confirm that my child has been diagnosed with asthma
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can confirm my child has been prescribed an inhaler
<input type="checkbox"/>	My child has a working, in-date inhaler and spacer clearly labelled with their name.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If my child shows 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.

When I have an asthma attack (please tick as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/>	I start coughing
<input type="checkbox"/>	I start wheezing
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find it hard to breathe
<input type="checkbox"/>	My chest becomes tight
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find it difficult to talk
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (describe below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

I may need to take my inhaler (please tick as appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Before exercise
<input type="checkbox"/>	After exercise
<input type="checkbox"/>	When there is high pollen
<input type="checkbox"/>	During cold weather
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have a Viral Infection (cold/flu)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (describe below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Relationship to pupil _____

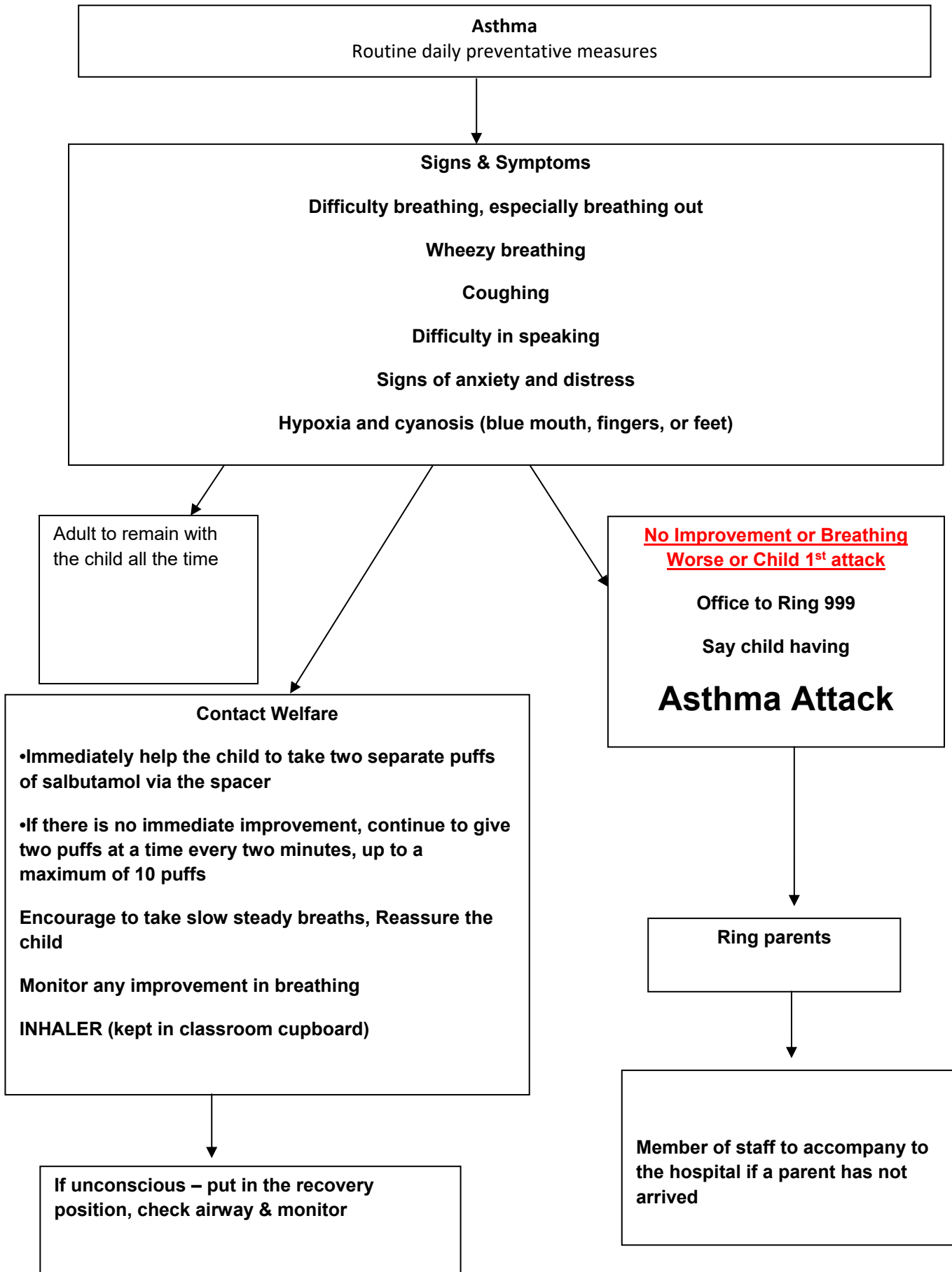
Daytime Telephone No. _____

Signature _____

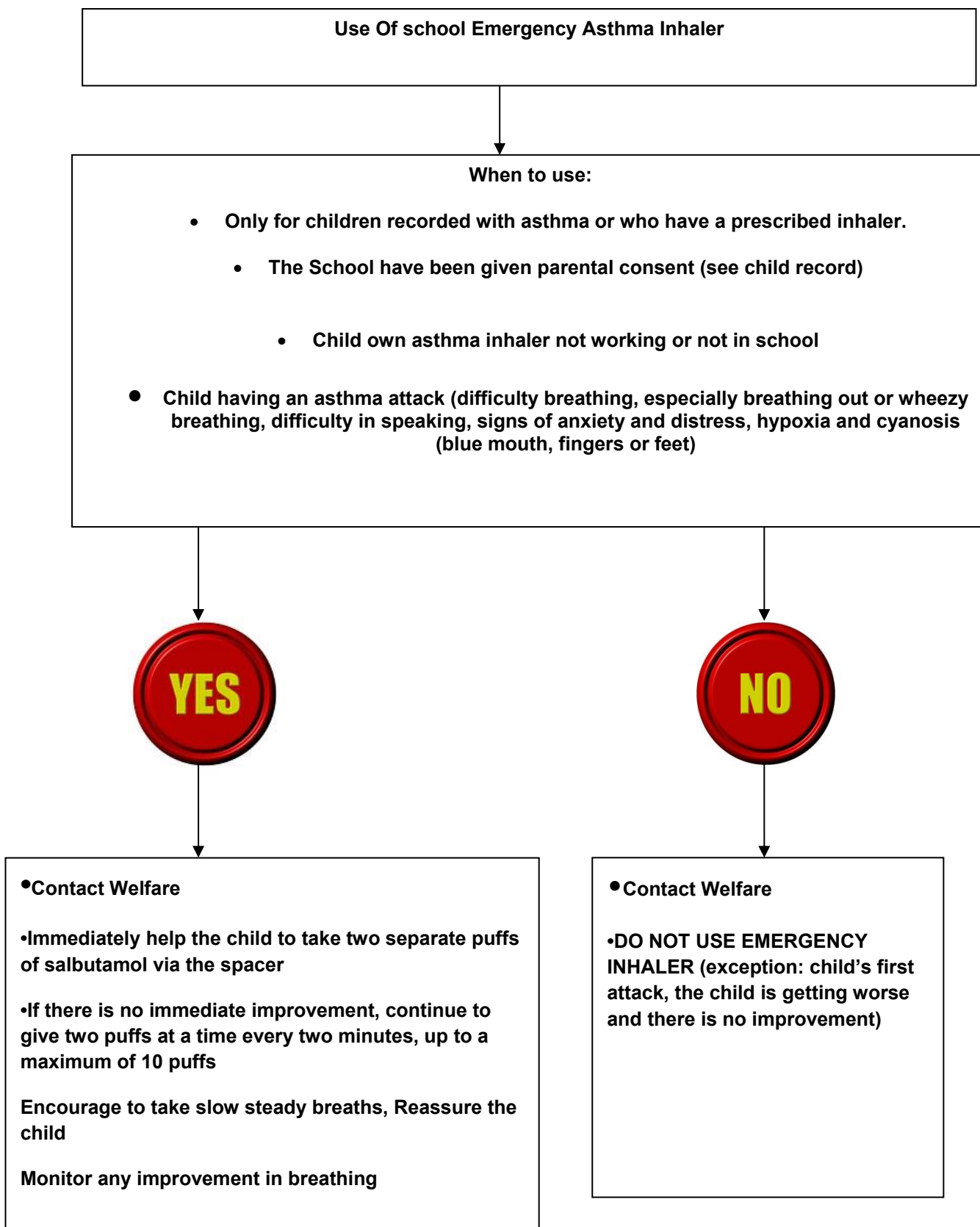
Date _____

****Please note everyone with asthma should use a spacer with their inhaler to ensure delivery to the lungs. If your child does not have a spacer or has not had an asthma review in the past 12 months please book an appointment with your GP as soon as possible.***

Appendix 2: Asthma routine daily preventative measures



Appendix 3: Use Of school Emergency Asthma Inhaler



Appendix 4:
LETTER TO INFORM PARENTS OF EMERGENCY SALBUTAMOL INHALER USE

Child's name:

.....

Class:

.....

Date:

Dear.....,

This letter is to notify you that..... has had problems with his / her breathing today. This happened

when.....

The school the emergency asthma inhaler containing salbutamol has been used:

- Their own asthma inhaler was not working
- Their own asthma inhaler was not in school
[Delete as appropriate]

They were given puffs.

Although they soon felt better, we would strongly advise that you have your child seen by your doctor as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,