

September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Emergency Use of Salbutamol Inhalers in College

From 1st October 2014 the Human Medicines (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2014 allow schools to obtain, without a prescription, salbutamol inhalers and spacers, if they wish, for use in emergencies. This will be for any pupil diagnosed with asthma, or who has been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. The inhaler can be used if the pupil's own prescribed inhaler is not available (for example, because it is lost, broken, or empty).

It is very important to ensure your child always has their own salbutamol inhaler and spacer in school and the presence of the emergency inhaler does not replace the need to provide this.

Please note the following advice that we have been given: most children with well controlled asthma should rarely need to use salbutamol and can lead a full and active life. Children needing to use salbutamol more than two or three times per week, when they are well, are not as well controlled as they should be and have a higher risk of asthma attack. In this case it is important to see their GP to ensure they are on the right preventative treatment. This could prevent an unnecessary and traumatic trip to hospital for a child and potentially save their life.

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 for occasional symptoms or emergencies.

In the unlikely event that your child has an asthma attack and they do not have an inhaler in school we need your written consent to administer an emergency inhaler.

Please complete the attached reply slip and return it school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Ms M Sharratt
Head Teacher