Yorkmead Primary School
Asthma Policy

Yorkmead Primary School recognises that asthma is a widespread, serious but controllable condition affecting many pupils.
We encourage children with asthma to achieve their potential in all aspects of school life by having a clear policy that is understood by school staff, Governors, parents and pupils. Supply teachers and new staff are also made aware of the policy. All staff who come into contact with children with asthma are provided with training on asthma from the school nurse. Training is updated once a year.

Asthma Medication

Medication to treat the symptoms of asthma comes in the form of inhalers. Some children will have a 'preventer inhaler' (brown), these are children who have moderate to severe asthma. This type of inhaler is used daily to reduce the number of asthma attacks.
All children will have a 'reliever inhaler' (blue). Reliever inhalers work by relaxing the muscles surrounding the airways to quickly open the airways making breathing easier.

Immediate access to reliever inhalers is vital. Children in Year 5 and 6 are encouraged to carry their reliever inhaler as soon as parent, doctor or nurse and class teacher agree they are mature enough. The reliever inhalers of younger children are kept in the class in the medication box. Parents are asked to ensure that school is provided with 2 labelled spare reliever inhalers which are kept in the medication box. School staff are not required to administer medicine except in an emergency.
All staff will let children take their own inhaler when they need to.

An emergency salbutamol inhaler will also be available for use only for those children for whom written parental consent has been given for the use of the emergency inhaler.

Record Keeping

At the beginning of each school year or when a child first joins the school, parents are asked to complete an asthma form which is kept on file in the child's class. The nursery file is kept in the school office.

PE

Taking part in sports is an essential part of school life. Children with asthma are encouraged to participate fully in PE. Each child's inhaler will be readily available for appropriate use before or during the PE lesson if needed.

Out-of-School activities, trips and outings

On every out of school activity, trip or outing a member of staff who is First Aid trained will be in attendance. Pupils **must** ensure they bring the correct inhaler with them on every out

of school activity, however an emergency asthma kit will also be available for use **only** for those pupils whose parents have signed a consent form. Failure to provide an inhaler or asthma consent form **will** result in the pupils not being allowed to participate.

Asthma attacks

All staff who come into contact with pupils with asthma know what to do in the event of an asthma attack.

In the event of an asthma attack Yorkmead follows the procedure outlined in Schools Asthma Attack Flow Chart (see page 4).

Governors will:

- seek to ensure the health and safety of all staff, pupils and visitors on the school premises and anyone else on the premises. This responsibility extends to those staff and others leading activities taking place off site, such as visits, outings or residential visits;
- ensure that an appropriate Asthma Policy is in place;
- make sure the Asthma Policy is effectively monitored and regularly updated;
- provide indemnity for teachers who volunteer to administer medicine to pupils with asthma who need help.

School staff will:

- follow the School Asthma Policy;
- know which pupils with whom they come into contact, have asthma;
- know what to do in the event of an asthma attack;
- allow pupils with asthma immediate access to their reliever inhaler;
- tell parents/carers if their child has had an asthma attack;
- tell parents/carers if their child is using more reliever inhaler than they usually would;
- ensure pupils have their asthma medicines with them when they go on a school trip or out of the classroom;
- liaise with parents/carers, the school nurse and medical needs assistant
- receive regular asthma awareness training

Pupils will:

- treat other pupils with and without asthma equally;
- let any pupil having an asthma attack take his/her reliever inhaler (usually blue) and ensure a member of staff is called;
- tell their parents/carers, teacher or First Aider when they are not feeling well;
- treat asthma medicines with respect;

- know how to gain access to their medicine in an emergency;
- know how to take their own asthma medicines.

Parents/carers will:

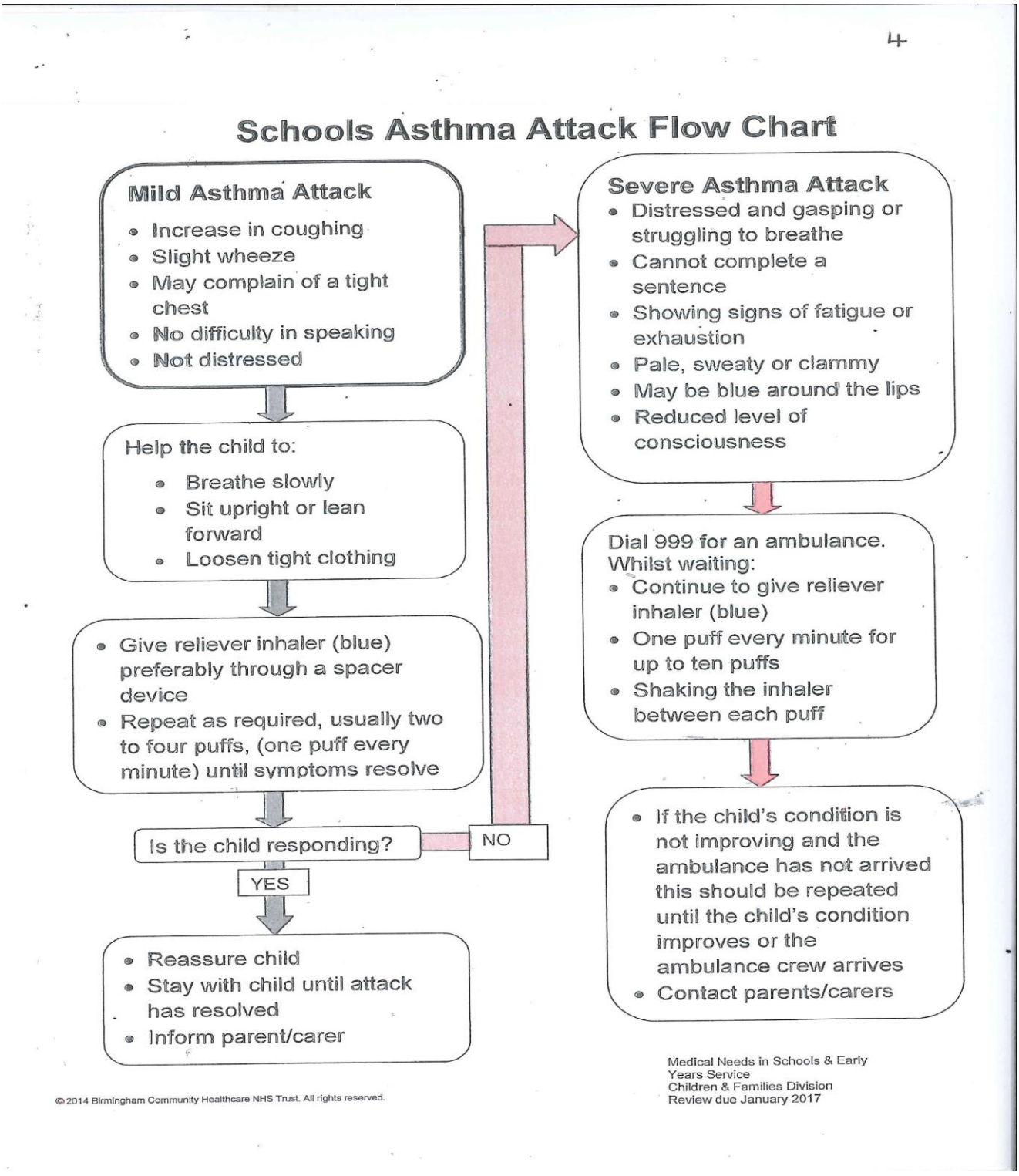
- ensure School has the correct labelled and two in-date inhalers in School;
- ensure their child's reliever inhalers (and spacer where relevant) are labelled with their name;
- inform School of any medicines the child requires while taking part in visits, or out of school activities.

- inform School of any changes to their child's asthma (for example, if their symptoms are getting worse or they are sleeping badly due to their asthma);

- ensure their child has regular asthma reviews with their doctor or asthma nurse (every 12 months)

Pending FGB ratification – October 2017

To be reviewed: September 2018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Schools Asthma Attack Flow Chart
Mild Asthma Attack
Increase in coughing
Slight wheeze
May complain of a tight chest
No difficulty in speaking
Not distressed
Help the child to:
Breathe slowly
Sit upright or lean forward
Loosen tight clothing
Give reliever inhaler (blue) preferably through a spacer device
Repeat as required, usually two to four puffs, (one puff every minute) until symptoms resolve
Is the child responding?
NO
YES
Reassure child
Stay with child until attack has resolved
Inform parent/carer
Severe Asthma Attack
Distressed and gasping or struggling to breathe
Cannot complete a sentence
Showing signs of fatigue or exhaustion
Pale, sweaty or clammy
May be blue around the lips
Reduced level of consciousness
Dial 999 for an ambulance.
Whilst waiting:
Continue to give reliever inhaler (blue)
One puff every minute for up to ten puffs
Shaking the inhaler between each puff
If the child's condition is not improving and the ambulance has not arrived this should be repeated until the child's condition improves or the ambulance crew arrives
Contact parents/carers
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Medical Needs in Schools & Early Years Service
Children & Families Division
Review due January 2017