

Asthma Policy

Taken and edited from the Department of Health's published document 'Guidance on the use of emergency salbutamol inhalers in schools' September 2014.

We are aware we have students with us at Ceracycloan with asthma. These children should be advised by their referring school to have their own reliever inhaler when attending with us to assist in treating symptoms and for use in the event of an asthma attack until further assistance can be accessed.

We advise schools referring to us to ensure pupils understand are aware that they should...

1. Bring their own inhaler with them when attending

Or

2. Supply us with an inhaler which can be kept on our site, labelled with their name

All pumps are clearly labelled with the young person's name and kept in our reception / office securely

Common 'day to day' symptoms of asthma are:

Cough and wheeze (a 'whistle' heard on breathing out) when exercising
Shortness of breath when exercising
Intermittent cough

These symptoms are usually responsive to use of their own inhaler and rest (e.g. stopping exercise). They would not usually require the child to be sent home from school or to need urgent medical attention.

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 AMULANCE IMMEDIATELY

- Appears exhausted
- Has a blue/white tinge around lips
- Is going blue
- Has collapsed