

## **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions and Use of Emergency Inhalers in Schools**

From 1 September Governing Bodies have a new duty to make arrangements to support pupils at school with medical conditions.

From 1 October 2014 legislation on prescription medicines changed to allow schools to keep salbutamol inhalers for use in emergencies.

### **Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions**

Managing Medicines policy has been replaced by Supporting Children with Medical Conditions to reflect the new duty effective from 1 September. This updated policy can be found on the Pupil Needs/Health section of [Norfolk Schools](#).

What was previously best practice – and a requirement of the County Council's managing medicines policy – for schools to manage pupils' medical conditions, has become a statutory duty.

The updated policy sets out what governing bodies must do to meet their legal responsibilities and the arrangements they will be expected to make, based on good practice, as described in 'Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions: Statutory Guidance for Governing Bodies' (DfE, April 2014).

### **Emergency Inhalers**

This change applies to all primary and secondary schools. Schools are not required to hold an inhaler but the guidance has been developed by the Department of Health to capture good practice which schools should observe.

An emergency inhaler should only be used by children, for whom written parental consent for use of the emergency inhaler has been given, who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler, or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. It can be used if the pupil's prescribed inhaler is lost, broken, or empty.

Schools that choose to keep emergency inhalers and spacers should establish a policy/protocol for their use based on the [Government guidance on Norfolk Schools](#). This guidance replaces previous Norfolk specific Asthma guidance on Schools' PeopleNet that has now been withdrawn.

Schools choosing to hold an emergency inhaler should consider including a cross-reference to the asthma policy in the school's existing policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions.

The guidance gives details on how schools can buy inhalers and spacers, what an emergency asthma inhaler kit should contain, suggested numbers of items for a typical school, storage, care and disposal; and an example Consent Form.

Information for schools on other pupil health topics – diabetes and intimate care - previously located on the Schools' PeopleNet website – can now be found on the Pupil Needs/Health section of the Norfolk Schools website.