
Head Lice Policy

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact. They can be difficult to spot in your hair. Nits frequently are seen on hair behind the ears and near the back of the neck. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim, and can only be spread by head to head contact as a lice crawls one head to another.

Aim

This policy aims to increase its understanding of and response to managing head lice effectively. To ensure that families and staff are aware of their responsibilities and provide a consistent approach to assist in early detection and control of head lice.

Prevention and Control

Head lice are spread by direct head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. Parents and carers have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice.

Head lice can make your head feel itchy and like something is moving in your hair. The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice.

We encourage checking your child's/children's hair on a weekly basis using a fine-toothed comb. Adding conditioner makes this easier. Combing the hair from root to the ends. This is called wet combing.

Treatment

Only commence treatment if head lice is found. You can treat head lice without seeing a GP. There are several medicines that are available in pharmacies. The instructions should be followed as failure to do so could result in re-infestation.

To support parent/carers to achieve a consistent collaborative approach to head lice management, the school medical team will distribute an up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff as requested, only exclude children from school with live lice, and review the head lice policy as needed.

The School nurse no longer carries out routine checks to look for head lice as this has been found to be ineffective in the prevention of outbreaks, but please seek advise from the school medical team if you need support on this matter.

Should a case be discovered or reported within the school:

- The parent/carer will be informed to collect their child for treatment.
- The parent/carer of the affected year group or class will be informed (without identifying individuals) and encouraged to take extra care.
- Rescreening is needed 7-10 days after initial treatments, to inspect hair for live crawling lice.

Last updated date: 16 September 2021
