

St.Peter's C.E. Primary School



Headlice Policy

Updated: October 2022

To be reviewed: September 2024

Rationale

St. Peter's Primary School is aware of the national community problem of head lice and how it can sometimes affect children of a primary school age at home and in school.

This policy sets out the duties and responsibilities of families and the school in dealing with head lice. It sets out what school will and will not do as well as providing some practical advice as to how to tackle head lice.

Information

What are head lice?



A head louse is a tiny six-legged insect. It is approximately the size of a pin head but can become the size of a match head. It is greyish brown in colour but both the louse and the eggs it lays can change colour to match hair colour.

Louse eggs take around 7-14 days to hatch which is why it is important to check the hair after any treatment 7-14 days later.

Sometimes the appearance of a rash at the back of a neck is the first indication of infection.

Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim. They are spread by head-to-head contact and climb from the hair of an infected person to the hair of someone else.

Head lice infections are not primarily a problem of schools but of the wider community. They cannot be solved by the school, but the school can help the local community to deal with them.

Further Information

www.hpa.org.uk or www.nhs.uk

Parents' / carers' Responsibilities

Parents or carers are responsible for preventing, detecting and treating head lice infections in their families by arranging:

- To comb/brush their own and their children's hair routinely to prevent the survival of lice.
- To check hair regularly for eggs or live lice and treat immediately if necessary
- To promptly treat any members of the family who have a head lice infection and inform them and other close contacts if they have been near someone with them.
- To inform the school promptly if a school child is infected.
- It is crucial that your child's hair is retreated and combed through again a week later as per the lotion instructions to get rid of any new lice that have hatched from the eggs.
- Treatment can be bought from the pharmacy or supermarket. Some pharmacies offer free treatment for low-income families.
- As soon as treatment is complete, and the hair has been combed through, the child can come back into school.
- Absences will be authorised for the time it takes your child to be treated. For example, if a child is sent home for treatment, the rest of the day will be authorised but not the following day.

School's responsibilities

- When a child at school has a head lice infection, the parent/carer will be contacted to collect the child for treatment. This is because, in some cases the headlice infection may lead to discomfort for the child making it difficult for him/her to concentrate on schoolwork and allows treatment to begin as soon as possible.
- Texts will then be sent out to families of children in the class requesting they check their child's hair that night.
- If a child repeatedly has head lice which are not treated, despite support and advice from school, we will treat this as a safeguarding issue and follow our procedures.