

# Headlice Policy

## Rationale

Evelyn Street Primary School is aware of the national problem of head lice and how it can sometimes affect children of a primary school age at home and in school.

This policy attempts to set out the duties and responsibilities of parents, the school and the Health Authorities in dealing with head lice. It sets out what school can and cannot do legally as well as providing some practical advice as to how to tackle head lice.

## Parent's/Carers/Guardians Duties

As the carer of a child you should;

- Undertake regular weekly and where appropriate daily checks to ensure that your child/family is not affected. This should be done with a detector comb as noted in the advice section. All family members should be checked.
- Inform all contacts of the family / friends who may have come in to head to head contact for a minute or more in the last month
- Seek advice from a medical practitioner (Pharmacist/ Health Visitor/ Doctor about using an approved lotion and treat using this method in the recommended way.
- School will undertake to;
- Provide information about Headlice on an annual basis and more regularly if many cases arise.
- Encourage parents to seek advice from the School Nursing Service if they find Head lice to be a problem.
- Maintain a visual check on pupils.
- Alert individual parents by phone call if a more persistent case is noted and ask that they are treated immediately in school or home and returned to school immediately the same day.
- Invite these parents to meet with the school nurse to discuss treatment/ provide advice.
- The school may require to complete a CAF (with the parent's permission) enabling that parents/carers to gain support from other agencies.

## The school by law cannot

- **Carry out physical checks on pupils for head lice.**
- **Tell parents to keep children away from school because of head lice.**

## Detection

Head lice can't be prevented but regular checking ensures early detection and treatment if necessary. The best detection method is wet combing (see below).

Parents and carers should aim to check their children's hair once a week during hair washing. You need your usual shampoo, ordinary conditioner and a louse detection comb. Remember that you are looking for living moving head lice – the only evidence that your child has a head lice infection. The comb must be fine enough to catch the lice. Your pharmacist should be able to recommend a suitable one.

## Treatment

There are two treatment options. The first is the wet combing method as set out below. Wet combing is by far the most effective method. The other is to use an insecticide lotion. School will ask that children are treated immediately if live lice are found.

### Wet combing

1. Shampoo the hair, rinse, apply lots of conditioner and use a wide-toothed comb to untangle and straighten.
2. Once the tangles have gone, section the hair and comb with a fine-toothed detection comb from root to end. Comb one section at a time, paying particular attention to the back of the neck and the area around the ears.
3. Check the comb for live lice between each stroke and remove them.
4. When the whole head of hair has been combed through and checked, rinse off the conditioner.
5. Check all family members at the same time and arrange treatment if lice are found.

### Bug Busting

This is a non-insecticide alternative to lotions that involves combing out all lice with a fine-toothed detection comb using the wet combing method described above

To be effective, Bug Busting needs to be repeated every 3 days for up to 3 weeks to ensure that all head lice are removed.