

Greenvale Primary School



HEAD LICE POLICY

Policy Date	September 2022
Signed by Head Teacher	Mrs A Allnutt
Review Date	September 2024

Section 1- Monitoring

- 1.1 The Head Teacher will monitor the application of this policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively.
- 1.2 The policy will be reviewed bi-annually to ensure its effective application.
- 1.3 This policy is consistent with the schools' Data Protection and GDPR Policy
- 1.4 **Linked Policies**
 - 1.4.1 **Data Protection and GDPR Policy**
 - 1.4.2 **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy**

Section 2 – Policy Content

- 2.1 It is the parent / carer's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly for head lice.
- 2.2 The staff at Greenvale Primary School are not allowed to touch a child's head to look for head lice.
- 2.3 Where head lice are observed on a child's hair, the parent / carer will be asked to collect the child from school straight away and not return them to school until all live head lice have been removed.
- 2.4 The parent / carer will be asked to do the following:-
 - 2.4.1 Remove all live lice and as many eggs as possible. Once all live lice are removed the child may return to school.
 - 2.4.2 Check all family members as when one member of the family has head lice it is possible that others do.
 - 2.4.3 Check their child's hair morning and evening to remove any lice which may hatch from missed eggs and continue to remove eggs.
- 2.5 All parents / carers will be told that when they discover their child has head lice; they should treat the child and inform the school so that a letter can be sent home to other members of that child's class.
- 2.6 When receiving a letter parents / carers in that class should be extra vigilant about checking their child's hair.

Section 3 - Appendices

Appendix 1 – Head Lice Information Booklet for Parents

Appendix 2 – Parent Information Sheet

- ✓ If you really want to get rid of them, you need to make the time to do so properly.
- ✓ Alert the school.
- ✓ Everyone needs to do their bit – one egg on one hair can cause an outbreak!

Useful websites

NHS

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

Kids Health

<http://kidshealth.org/en/parents/head-lice.html>

Hedrin

<http://www.hedrin.co.uk/>

Lyclear

<http://www.lyclear.co.uk/>

Thank you for your help!

Always consult your GP if you find something in/on your child's head that you are not sure about.

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Greenvale Primary School



Information for Parents:

HEADLICE



The Facts

What everyone needs to know and how to get rid of them!

What are Head Lice?

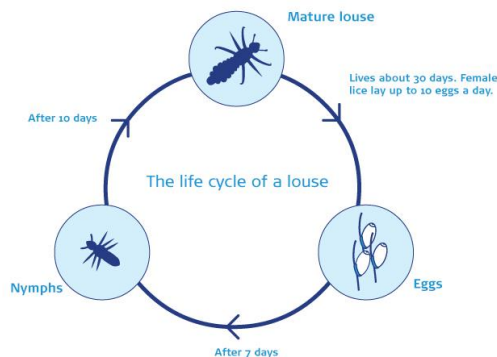
- ✓ Head Lice are small parasites that live close to the scalp.

- ✓ They crawl – they do not jump, and they can breed on their own.
- ✓ 'Nits' are the empty egg cases from which the headlice have emerged. The eggs are very small and stick to individual hairs.
- ✓ Head Lice can change colour to match hair colour.
- ✓ Head Lice do not need hair to be dirty to live – clean hair suits them just as well!
- ✓ Anyone can get Head Lice – adults and children.
- ✓ A lot of Head Lice are spread within the family, not all Head Lice are spread at school.

How to avoid Head Lice!

- ✓ Head Lice can only crawl to another head when heads or hair touch. Long hair should be tied back.
- ✓ Keep a look out! Regularly check your own and your child/ren(s) hair for eggs, Nits and live Head Lice.

- ✓ **Always** check our child/ren(s) hair when you receive a NOTIFICATION OF HEAD LICE LETTER.
- ✓ If you find eggs, Nits or Head Lice, follow the “How to get rid of Head Lice” advice.



How to get rid of Head Lice!

- ✓ DON'T PANIC!
- ✓ Wet your child/ren(s) hair.
- ✓ Towel it dry and comb through with a lot of conditioner.
- ✓ Use a special narrow toothed comb which are available from chemists and pharmacies.
- ✓ Starting at the neckline, comb your child/ren(s) hair in small 2cm

sections along the whole length of the hair.

- ✓ Follow this procedure at least once a day (twice is better) for 5 consecutive days.
- ✓ Lotions and potions only kill live Head Lice. You must use the comb through method (as above) to get rid of Nits and eggs.
- ✓ Treat the whole family – they spread easily!





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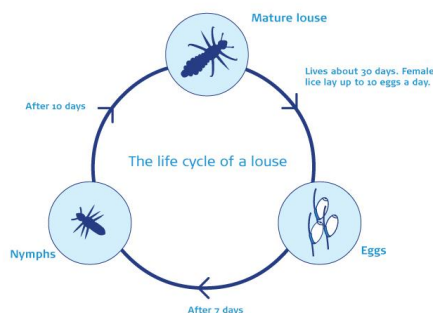
Head Lice Information for Parents

Head Lice are tiny insects that live in human hair and are particularly common in children aged 4-11.

Research has shown that:

- *Head Lice are spread by head-to-head contact, climbing (not jumping or flying) from the hair of an infected person to the hair of someone else.*
- *A head Lice infestation is **not** the result of dirty hair or poor hygiene.*
- *All hair types can be affected, regardless of the length or condition.*
- *A Head Lice infestation may spread if individual parents / carers fail to treat their children.*
- *Infections may exist for up to 3 months before Head Lice become apparent.*

Head Lice often cause a person's scalp to itch. Itching isn't caused by lice biting the scalp but by an allergy to the scalp. However, not everyone is allergic to head Lice so you or your child may not notice a Head Lice infestation. In some cases an allergy can take up to 3 months to develop so it is important to check your child's hair regularly.



Head Lice can be difficult to see even when the hair is closely inspected. It can be difficult to distinguish between eggs and nits (empty eggshells) that are dead or alive. Nits can also remain glued to hairs long after a successful treatment.

Detection Combing is the best way of finding Head Lice. It involves using a special fine-toothed Head Lice comb with a tooth spacing of 0.2-0.3mm to comb through the hair. The comb can trap the smallest Lice. It works best on wet hair but it can also be used on dry hair.

Comb the hair from the scalp outwards, section by section for at least 10 minutes over a sink, bath or disposable towel. If Head Lice are present they will fall out during combing, or stick to the comb. The comb should be washed with water or wiped clean with a paper towel between each stroke.

Head Lice can usually be effectively treated with lotions or sprays designed to kill Head Lice, or by wet combing with the already mentioned Head Lice Comb. Wet combing can be used without lotions or sprays, but it needs to be done regularly and thoroughly.

Your local pharmacist will be able to recommend an over-the-counter lotion or spray and give you advice on how it can be used correctly. It is difficult to prevent a Head Lice infestation because they are spread by head-to-head contact. Regular Detection Combing on a weekly basis is the best way to find new Lice quickly.

As a school, we encourage parents / carers to:

- Prevent Head Lice by regular shampooing, conditioning and daily combing of the hair.
- Detect Head Lice using a fine tooth plastic or detector comb on a **weekly basis**.
- Treat Head Lice as soon as an infestation becomes apparent.
- Alert friends, family and the school if Head Lice are detected, and letting them know that treatment is being undertaken.

If we all act together we should be able to reduce the occurrence of Head Lice.