



Believing and Achieving Together

Signed:

Date: January 2019

Review: January 2021 [or sooner if required]

### Head Lice

We believe that head lice are parasitic insects with hook-like claws on each of their six legs that live in the hair of humans feeding on the blood of their host.

We provide regular information to parents in regard to head lice prevention and how to deal with infestation. Parents must be made aware that having head lice is a problem that can be easily dealt with and that children are likely to get head lice at some point in their school career.

We wish to work closely with the School Council and to hear their views and opinions as we acknowledge and support Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child that children should be encouraged to form and to express their views.

#### Aims:

- To ensure parents are aware of the need to be checking their children's hair regularly and know how to deal with the problem of head lice.

#### Procedure:

##### Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body has:

- appointed a member of staff to be responsible for Health and Safety;
- delegated powers and responsibilities to the Headteacher to ensure all school personnel and visitors to the school are aware of and comply with this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring funding is in place to support this policy;
- responsibility for ensuring policies are made available to parents;

- nominated a link governor to visit the school regularly, to liaise with the coordinator and to report back to the *Governing Body*;
- responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this policy.

#### Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- ensure all school personnel, pupils and parents are aware of and comply with this policy;
- monitor the effectiveness of this policy;
- annually report to the *Governing Body* on the success and development of this policy.

#### Role of the Key-person

The coordinator/ key-person will:

- lead the development of this policy throughout the school;
- work closely with the Headteacher and the nominated governor;
- provide guidance and support to all staff;
- provide training for all staff on induction and when the need arises;
- keep up to date with new developments and resources;
- review and monitor;
- annually report to the *Governing Body* on the success and development of this policy.

#### School Procedure

We will:

- communicate regularly with parents via newsletters, information on the school website and information leaflets in the school entrance;
- encourage children to tie back long hair;
- identify repeat cases and speak to the parents who may be not aware of the problem;
- make full use of the school nurse to provide informative talks to parents on prevention and cure of head lice;
- send out alert letter to parents once head lice have been found in school;
- not inspect a child's hair but we inform the parent if we feel a suspected problem exists;
- not identify children who have head lice;

- not exclude any child on the grounds of having head lice.

### Role of Parents

Parents must:

- check their child's hair regularly and know how to deal with infestation;
- attend information talks with the school nurse;
- be aware that anyone can catch head lice and it has nothing to do with 'dirty hair';
- inform the school nurse if they find or suspect their child has head lice;
- look at the following websites for detailed information on how to deal with head lice:

[www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx)

[www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

### Role of School Personnel

School personnel will:

- comply with all the afore mentioned aspects of this policy;
- attend appropriate training sessions;
- report any cases of head lice to the school office so that alert letters can be sent to parents;
- be discreet and will not embarrass any child that has head lice.

### Role of the School Council

The School Council will be involved in:

- determining this policy with the Governing Body;
- discussing improvements to this policy during the school year;
- reviewing the effectiveness of this policy with the Governing Body.

### Monitoring the Effectiveness of this Policy

Annually the effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed, or when the need arises, and the necessary recommendations for improvement will be made to the governors.