

Enderby Road Infant and Nursery School

Headlice Policy



PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:	Jo Smeaton
APPROVED: GOVERNORS	DATE: 27-01-25
SIGNED: Sue Walmsley	ROLE: Chair of safeguarding committee
TO BE REVIEWED:	SPRING 2028

As a school, we are aware of the national problem of head lice and how it can sometimes affect children of infant school age at home and in school. This statement attempts to set out the duties and responsibilities of parents, the school and the Health Authorities in dealing with head lice. The school has followed the local NHS Foundation Trusts Guidelines on head lice in drawing up this statement.

Parent's/Carers

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 is the only reliable way of controlling head lice in an infant school where children are naturally in close contact with one another. It should be done with a detector comb as noted in the advice section. All family members should be checked.
- If you find head lice, 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.
- Re-check your child's hair, and
- Remain vigilant, undertaking regular checks with a detector comb.

School will undertake to:

- Provide information about head lice on an annual basis and more regularly if a pattern of cases arise.
- Engage with Health professions in dealing with this issue.
- Encourage parents to seek advice from the School Nursing Service if they find head lice to be a problem.
- Maintain a purely visual check on pupils.
- Alert individual parents by phone call if a more persistent case is noted.
- Invite these parents to meet with a First Aider or the Pastoral Lead to discuss treatment/ provide advice.
- The First Aider or Pastoral Lead (with the parent's permission) may then make a referral to the School Nurse/ Health Visitor enabling that parent to gain support.
- Offer to provide assistance with wet combing and /or other treatment.

The school by law cannot

- Carry out physical checks on pupils for head lice without parental permission.
- Exclude a child from school because of head lice.

Information regarding head lice and possible treatments is available for parents on the website 'Once a Week: Take a Peek'. <https://www.onceaweektakeapeek.com/>

It is the responsibility of the headteacher to monitor the effectiveness of this policy and to liaise with Health Care Professionals regarding its content.

Statement Reviewed By: Jo Smeaton	January 2025
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