

# Christ Church C.E and Lewis Street Primary School

## Head Lice Policy



	Christ Church C.E	Lewis Street
Date	Spring 2017	Spring 2017
Review Date	Spring 2020	Spring 2020
Signed by Designated Governor	R.Orton	Dr. Muslim

### Aims

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed
- To ensure parents and carers are well informed about head lice treatment
- To ensure minimal disruption to school life when a child has head lice and to respect children's dignity at all times

### What are Head Lice?

They are small, six legged wingless insects which are pin-head sized when they hatch, less than a match stick head size when fully grown and are grey/brown in colour. They live close to the scalp at the base of the hair, where they find both food and warmth. They feed through the scalp of their host. The female louse lays eggs in sacs which hatch in 7 to 10 days. These eggs are called nits and are usually white in colour.

Head lice are passed from one person by another from head to head contactor sharing of combs and brushes. They cannot fly or jump. They do not carry or transmit disease but do cause head itching and in severe cases scratching can lead to infection and swollen lymph glands.

### Identification and Responsibility

Identification, treatment and prevention of head lice lies with parents and carers. School can assist by offering support and advice and signposting other services and professional that may assist in extreme cases.

### If Head Lice are Suspected or Seen:

If lice are seen on a child an alert text and/or letter will be sent home to parents and carers which outlines the necessary treatment to eradicate the head lice. It may be necessary to send out alert letters to full groups or classes of children.

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If a child complains of an itchy scalp and gives permission a visual check may be carried out by a member of staff respecting the child's privacy and dignity at all times. An alert will be sent out if evidence of head lice is observed.

Children will not be sent home if head lice are suspected unless severe discomfort or distress is evident in the child.

Families with recurring head lice infection should be given support, advice and help to correct the situation. Advice from the school nurse may be sought.

It is of note that repeated infection may be due to family stresses or neglect. If this is suspected the Designated Safeguarding Lead must be consulted in accordance with the school's Safeguarding Policy.

Treatment of lice usually takes the form of lotions which can be obtained from the chemist, two overnight treatments a week apart are preferable. Children will not be authorised to be absent from school for more than 1 session (half a day) whilst treatment is sought and applied.