

# HEAD LICE POLICY

## Introduction

The school acknowledges the problems which head lice can cause and is sympathetic to the circumstances families find themselves in when infestation occurs. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school will work in a collaborative and co-operative way to assist all families to manage head lice effectively. This policy outlines roles, responsibilities and actions for controlling and treating head lice in a consistent and co-ordinated manner.

## Background information

- head lice are transmitted by direct, still, prolonged head to head contact
- transmission of lice within the classroom is relatively rare; when it does occur, it is usually from a 'best friend'
- at any one time, most schools will have a few children who have active infection; this is often between 0% and 5%, rarely more
- success in eradicating head lice is most likely to be achieved by an agreed approach

## Expectations

To minimise the problem of head lice, parents are asked to:

- check their child's hair for head lice on a regular basis at home
- ensure that their child does not attend school with untreated head lice
- regularly inspect all family members and treat them if necessary
- tie back shoulder-length hair
- maintain a positive attitude which avoids stigmatising families who may experience difficulty with control measures
- sign the written agreement for their child's hair to be inspected in school whenever head lice are suspected or observed
- attend school if head lice are suspected to check their own child's hair, if written permission for the school to check has not been given

To support parents and to achieve a consistent approach, the school will:

- regularly liaise with the school Nurse to keep abreast of developments in the detection, treatment and control of head lice
- distribute up to date and accurate information to parents as available
- from time to time arrange for the school Nurse to talk to parents' meetings
- where head lice are suspected or observed on a child in school, arrange for member of the school staff to inspect a child's hair confidentially, whose parents have given permission by signing the consent form

**Action**

If head lice are confirmed:

- the Head teacher will immediately contact the parent who will be asked to collect the child for treatment at home
- a letter will be sent to all parents in the infected class alerting them to the infestation and asking them to confirm in the reply slip that they have checked their child's hair and taken any necessary action
- at the discretion of the Head teacher, the school Nurse may be informed in confidence and will assess the situation; confidential contact may be made with parents to offer information, advice and support

**Agreed by the Premise/Health and Safety .....**

**Ratified by the Governing Body on .....**

..... **Head teacher**

..... **Chair of Governors**

## PARENTAL CONSENT FORM - HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS

Your permission is requested for a member of the school staff to check your child's hair when head lice are suspected or observed

The school is fully aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining confidentiality at all times

Parent's name .....

Address .....

..... Postcode: .....

Name(s) of child(ren) attending Offwell C of E VC School:

Class:

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**I give consent for the hair of the above named child(ren) to be checked when head lice are suspected or observed.**

Parent's Signature ..... Date .....