

# Head Lice Policy



Fairholme School

Updated: February 2015

## **What are head lice?**

Head lice are a widespread and sometimes unpleasant infection, especially among school-age children. A common misconception is that they are a symptom of poor hair hygiene – this is not true. Lice are equally likely to be found on clean or dirty hair!

Contrary to popular belief, head lice cannot jump, hop or fly, but are spread by sustained, direct, head to head contact. Children often get head lice from close contact when playing together, whispering, hugging or when they are in close contact with an infected adult. The truth is that anyone can get head lice – not just children.

## **What will Fairholme School do to try and prevent head lice infections?**

If a member of staff notices head lice in a child's hair, they will send home a letter informing the parent and asking them to treat the condition as soon as possible. Also, as a preventative measure, all children with hair below their shoulders will have to tie it back in school.

We will educate our children to, 'Once a week take a peek' through our PSHCE lessons. We will also run some workshops with our school nurse to different year groups throughout the year where appropriate.

All our staff will have the same copy of, 'Fairholme School's Head Lice Procedures', to ensure we are all working to a whole school approach.

At Fairholme School we are aware this will not completely stop head lice but will help to manage the situation.