

	Aspect Policy No. 30	Version: 1.2 Pages: 2	Last up-dated: Nov 2014 Last Version: 1
	Authorised: Full Governing Body	Date: December 2017	Review due: Reviewed:
Head Lice Policy			

Learning Through Faith

Learning develops independent thinking children
Through exciting challenges expecting success with
Faith at the centre of all we do.

Aims and Objectives

To set out St Clares Catholic Primary School's policy on the management and control of headlice. This policy reflects the views of all teaching staff and was drawn up as a result of staff discussion. It has the full agreement of the governing body and will be reviewed regularly by the coordinator. All staff are responsible for implementing this policy and will be supported and monitored by the Head teacher.

Objectives

- To ensure consistent advice is offered by all staff
- To ensure practise in the management of head lice is consistent
- To ensure the roles and responsibilities of parents/carers, school staff and health professionals are defined and understood.

2. Introduction

Like the common cold, anyone can catch head lice. It is a community problem which affects adults and children. The head louse is a small insect, which lives on the human scalp. It moves by crawling through the hair – it cannot jump, fly or hop. The female lays five to eight eggs a day. They are glued to the base of the hair shaft and take 5-7 days to hatch. The louse grows to full size in ten days, and is then ready to lay eggs, and can live for up to 40 days. Empty egg cases are white and called nits. They grow out with the hair. They cannot spread head lice.

How Are Head Lice Spread?

Head to head contact is the only way of spreading head lice. Head lice do not jump or fly.

3. Prevention and Control

The responsibility for the prevention and control of head lice of pupils in school, lies with the parent or carer of the child infected. Control of head lice is possible using insecticides or the 'wet combing' method by the parent.

The school by law cannot:

- Carry out physical checks on pupils for head lice
- Tell parents to keep children away from school because of head lice
- Exclude a child from school because of head lice

4. Treatment options

- Treat ONLY if live lice are found
- Treat ONLY the individuals who are affected
- Treatment is made by either PHYSICAL REMOVAL or applying insecticides

The 'Wet Combing' method – see advice in NHS Head Lice leaflet

Insecticide Treatment – the use of lotions and liquids are recommended.

Natural Remedies – the perception that herbal products are 'natural' and therefore 'safe' is false. There is no reliable evidence of the effectiveness of these products.

Electric Combs – these combs can be bought and are said to kill lice by means of a small electric discharge. There is no reliable evidence of effectiveness and they should not be used on wet hair.

5. Responsibilities

PARENTS

- have the responsibility to regularly check their child's hair for lice or eggs
- **must** treat their child if lice or eggs are found

SCHOOL

1. is responsible for maintaining a visual check on pupils
2. is responsible for alerting parents (class/year groups) via letter/parent mail if an outbreak is noted in a particular class.
- 3 is responsible for notifying the parent of a child who is seen to have lice by **phone** (Head teacher to call and ask the Parent or Carer to treat the child), if after the general class letter to the class, the headlice has not been treated.
4. will invite parents of a child with a persistent case of head lice to speak to the School Nurse.

6. Awareness

St Clares Catholic Primary School will do its utmost to ensure Parents/Carers are made aware of the facts relating to head lice and to ensure Parents/Carers are given up to date information about the recommend ways to treat e.g. 'bug busting' days, notice boards in Reception, posters around school etc.