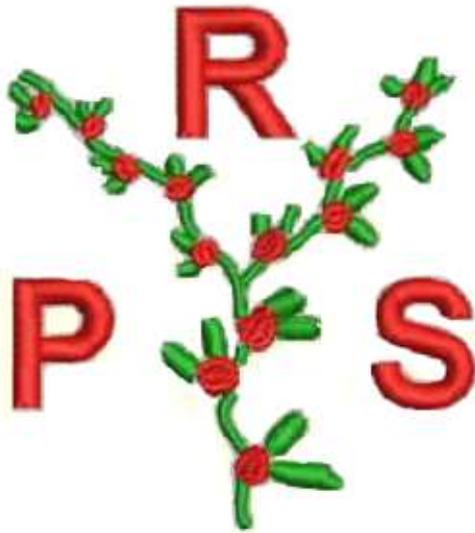


Roseberry Primary School

R P S



Head Lice Policy

Approved by the Governing Body:	October 2013
Interim Review:	January 2021
Review Date:	January 2022
Head teacher:	Maggie Fearnley

Head Lice Policy

Rationale

Roseberry Primary School is aware of the national problem of head lice and how it can sometimes affect children of a primary school age at home and in school.

This policy attempts to set out the duties and responsibilities of parents, the school and the Health Authorities in dealing with head lice. It sets out what school can and cannot do legally as well as providing some practical advice as to how to tackle head lice.

Parent's/Carers/Guardians Duties

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 should be done with a detector comb and all family members should be checked.

If lice are found inform family/friends and school who may have come in to contact with the family member during the past month.

School will undertake to

- Provide information about Head lice on an annual basis and more regularly if many cases arise.
- Encourage parents to seek advice from our Parent Support Advisor if they find a head lice problem.
- Maintain a visual check on pupils.
- Alert individual parents when a case is found.
- Invite parents to meet with the Parent Support Advisor when outbreaks persist.
- Refer to School Health to enable parents to gain support.

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.

Detection

Head lice can't be prevented but regular checking will ensure early detection and treatment can be started. The best method of detection is wet combing.

How to check

- Good lighting is important.
- Part the hair in small sections, work from one side of the head to the other, look close to the scalp.
- Pay particular attention to the nape of the neck and behind the ears where they are protected from extremes of temperature and light.
- Head lice 'hold' on to the hair with claws found at the end of each of the 6 legs – they can only be removed with a fine-toothed comb, fingernails or snipped with scissors. (Sometimes dandruff is mistaken for lice but this can easily be removed whereas lice cannot)

Treatment

- Shampoo the hair, rinse, apply conditioner and use a wide-toothed comb to untangle and straighten.
- Section the hair and comb with a fine-toothed detection comb from root to end.
- Check the comb for live lice after each comb through.
- When the whole head has been combed through and thoroughly checked, rinse off the conditioner.
- Check all family members at the same time.

If lice are found treatment lotions are available from the doctor or from the chemist and can be used although thorough wet combing works effectively if carried out regularly

While the lotion will kill the lice it will not kill the eggs. Lotion will need to be applied again after 7 days to kill any newly hatched baby lice.

No medicated treatment is 100% effective.

If live lice are still being found after 2 treatments ask the school nurse for advice.

Treatment does not prevent infections.

Head lice Facts

- Head lice are small, six-legged wingless insects that live on the hair close to the scalp where it is warm and easy to feed.
- They are pin-head size when they hatch and usually less than match-head size when fully grown.
- The eggs are glued individually to hairs near the scalp. Un-hatched eggs are dull in colour and can be hard to see. After the lice have hatched the empty egg sacs - called nits – are white and easy to see. (Many people mistake the empty egg sacs or nits for head lice).
- Head lice are easily missed in dry hair and do not necessarily cause itching.
- Head lice can't fly, jump or swim. They spread from person to person through head to head contact by climbing along hairs.
- Clean hair is not a protection from head lice – they like any kind of hair.
- Head lice are not harmful.
- Head lice is common. Anyone can get them but children, who put their heads together a lot, tend to get them more often.
- Head louse eggs take up to 10 days to hatch. Baby lice take 6-10 days to become fully grown – it is after this that they can move from head to head. Younger lice tend to remain for a minimum of 6 days on the head where they hatched.
- Treatment is only needed when lice are detected. If lotions are used to try and prevent lice the lice may become resistant to the treatment.
- There is no evidence that 'electronic zappers' or tea tree oil are effective treatments.