



POLICY ON HEAD LICE

Educational information is provided to parents and, guardians about head lice on a regular basis via the newsletter and on the Danes Hill website.

Parents are given regular reliable information, including instructions on proper diagnosis by detection combing, to avoid the unnecessary or inappropriate treatment of unconfirmed infections.

Parents are advised to seek further advice from the School Nurse, the family practice or the local pharmacist.

The School Nurse is informed (in confidence) of cases of head lice infection. The School Nurse can assess the individual report and may decide to make confidential contact with the parents to offer information, advice and support.

Individual reports of infection are confidential.

Alert letters: they can convert the usual background level of lice into an imaginary 'outbreak' in which parents perception is that the school is riddled with lice. It is illogical to do so in response to head lice, which are not easily transmitted in school, but not done for other diseases which are highly transmissible in schools, such as impetigo or chickenpox.

Any mass action, including wet combing campaigns are not advised. These could also create an imaginary 'outbreak'.

Children who have, or are thought to have, head lice are not excluded

Routine head inspections are never effective.

A head lice infection can not be confirmed unless you find a living, moving louse.

FULL Date of Policy: 26 January 2018

Date of Policy renewal: 1st February 2019

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