



Head Lice Policy

Pre-school children and their parents face many new challenges as they begin their first experience in a group setting. One of these challenges is the risk of children contracting head lice. Although unpleasant, head lice do not constitute a threat to public health and are not an excludable condition, as deemed by Public Health England – Guidance on infection control in schools and childcare settings Sept 14. Excluding the child is unlikely to solve the problem and the child would suffer the stigma of exclusion for a reason beyond his or her control.

The aim of this policy is to provide clear procedures in the event of head lice infestation at Nursery and to ensure that:

- Staff are sensitive to the needs of the children and parents
- All children are respected and included in the group activities and not excluded in anyway
- All Staff members understand the rationale behind this policy
- All Staff members are prepared to respond sensitively to parent / carers questions.
- Staff are comfortable in advising parents to speak to their Health Visitor or GP to obtain the correct treatment and advice so that they are also informed of the risks of using pesticide lice products and are aware of non-chemical treatment alternatives.

When a case of head lice is discovered, the situation will be handled carefully and sensitively, with confidentiality upheld throughout, in line with the following procedures:

- The child concerned will not be isolated from other children nor excluded from activities or sessions at the Nursery.
- When the child concerned is collected, their parent / carer will be informed in a calm, caring and professional manner.
- Other parents / carers will be informed as quickly as possible in writing, including advice and guidance on treating head lice.
- Staff should check themselves regularly for head lice and treat whenever necessary.
- We ask that all parent/carers follow the following procedures:
- That parents/carers check their child's head for head lice on a regular basis, making screening part of their routine hygiene.
- That parents/carers inform us if they suspect their child / children have head lice. Or if they are aware that head lice are present in their child's hair including those who do not attend the group.
- Tie or plait their child's hair, where applicable
- On identifying cases of head lice, parents / carers treat their child and all the family, using current recommended treatments / methods.

This policy will be reviewed when changes arise. A copy of this policy can be obtained from the Nursery Offices or downloaded via our website.