



North Elmham CEVC Primary School  
Stibbard All Saints CEVA Primary School  
All Saints Stibbard Nursery and Childcare  
**Flourish Federation**





Policy: **Headlice**

Date: **2021**

Review: **2024**

# Headlice Policy

This policy was ratified by Flourish Federation Governing Body on:	March 2021
This policy will be reviewed by Flourish Federation Governing Body on: (unless earlier review is required to adhere to statutory requirements/changes in procedure)	March 2024
Policy Version:	1
Policy Signed by the Chair of Governors:	
Policy signed by the Executive Head Teacher:	

### **Aim of this policy.**

Flourish Federation is aware that headlice can sometimes affect children of a primary school age at home and in school. This policy aims to set out the duties and responsibilities of parents and the federation 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. At Flourish Federation our policy and procedures follow the most recent guidance available from NHS Choices (Jan 2018) (<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice> )

### **Objectives**

- To inform parents and carers and relevant professional staff on the detection, treatment and prevention of headlice infestations.
- To encourage parental or self-inspection of hair for early identification of infestation.
- To minimise the social stigma associated with infestations.
- To ensure that accurate and consistent information and advice is available.

### **Background information (from NHS Direct).**

Headlouse infection is not primarily a problem of schools but one of the wider community. It cannot be solved by school, but the school can help the local community to deal with it. Headlice are transmitted by direct, still, prolonged head-to-head contact. Transmission of lice within a classroom is relatively rare. When it does occur, it is usually from a 'best friend'. Headlice will not be eradicated in the foreseeable future, but a sensible, informed approach, based on fact not mythology, will help to limit the problem. At any one time, most schools will have a few children who have active infection with headlice. This is often between 0% and 5%, rarely more. The perception by parents/carers however, is often that there is a serious 'outbreak' with many children infected. This is hardly ever the case.

### **Parents'/Carers Responsibilities**

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 as noted in the advice in this policy. All family members should be checked.
- Hair should be checked on the same day if a letter or text from school saying that there is a case of headlice in your child's class is received.
- If live headlice are found, prompt treatment should be given.
- Inform all contacts of the family / friends who may have come in to head to head contact for a minute or more in the last month if headlice or nits (eggs) are found.
- Seek advice from a medical practitioner (Pharmacist/ Health Visitor/ Doctor) about using an approved lotion and treat using this method in the recommended way.

### **School will undertake to**

- Provide information about Headlice on an annual basis and more regularly if many cases arise.

- Encourage parents to seek advice from the professionals if they find headlice to be a persistent problem.
- Maintain a visual check on pupils.
- Alert parents (class/nursery) via a text or letter if an outbreak is noted or school is notified by a parent that a pupil has headlice.
- Ensure individual pupils with headlice are not identified.
- Invite parents to meet with the Inclusion Manager to discuss treatment/ provide advice should headlice be a recurring problem for that child.
- Encourage parents to return their child to school immediately after treatment – there is no need to keep a child off school for the day.
- School staff will be encouraged to check their own hair regularly.

**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.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if required.

