



<b>Document Title :</b>	Head Lice Policy	<b>Document Ref. Number :</b>	RBS/SC/P019
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<b>Section :</b>	School Clinic	<b>Version:</b>	2
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**1. PURPOSE:**

At RBS we recognize that Head Lice is a common condition affecting children both in school and in the community. This policy seeks to ensure clear and concise information when dealing with head lice in the school environment.

**2. SCOPE:**

This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

**3. TARGET AUDIENCE:**

The school nurse, teachers, teaching assistants, pupils and volunteers.

**4. POLICY STATEMENT:**

4.1. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice The Reach British School will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

**4.2. It is the expectation of this school that:**

- The School nurses will distribute up to date information regarding detection, treatment and control of head lice to staff and parents at the start of every school year.

- The school nurse will inspect a student's hair on request but will not review the whole class.
- A student will not be sent home if a moving louse or eggs are seen.
- If a child is noted to have moving lice/eggs whilst in school the parent will be contacted on the same day and informed that **treatment must start on that day.**
- The School nurse will issue a letter to the student and the teacher will be advised to send an email to all class parents to advise them of a suspected case of head lice in the class.
- Students can return to class **once treatment has commenced.**

#### 4.3 It is the expectation of the parents that:

- Children's hair will be checked at home on a weekly basis using the recommended fine tooth comb detection method.
- If a living louse or eggs are found in the child's hair appropriate advice is taken from a pharmacist and treatment commenced on the same day as the problem is noticed.
- Parents/carers will inspect household members and treat them if necessary. Advice should be taken from a pharmacist regarding an advised medicated product.
- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back.
- If the head lice are present in a child's hair the parents/carers are to notify family and friends so that they have an early opportunity to detect and treat head lice.

#### 4.4 There is no need for a child to be kept of school/sent home if they are found to have head lice.

The child may have had the infestation for several weeks so keeping them away from school is unlikely to affect transmission.

Research has shown that head inspections do little to reduce the head lice problem. The School Nurse will not perform class checks.

Please do not hesitate to contact the School nurses for further information. Pam (ext. 207) or Jo (ext. 222)

## 5. RESPONSIBILITY:

Parents, RBS Licensed School Nurse, Teachers and Staff's

## 6. REFERENCES:

- NHS Choices UK (<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Hed-lice?Pages/diagnosis.aspx>)
- Center for Disease Control ([www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/](http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/))
- National Institute for Health Care and Excellence (NICE) UK ([cks.nice.org.uk/head-lice](http://cks.nice.org.uk/head-lice))