

Date: August 2024  
Review date: August 2025  
Responsibility: AP

# Bishop Challoner School



## Head Lice Policy



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This policy relates to all areas of the school.

Head Lice are commonly known as “nits” and are present in the hair of those they infest. They are extremely common particularly in younger children where physical contact is more prolonged and commonplace. The louse itself grown to approximately 3mm long and can lay a number of eggs which are fixed to the shaft of the hair. Head lice can be very itchy and bothersome, but pose no health risk.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/> provides information on head lice and their treatment.

At Bishop Challoner, we aim to manage such infestations with sensitivity with two main points of focus in mind:

1. To ensure the child affected is comfortable and treated as soon as live lice are noticed to ensure they are able to continue their activities without discomfort.
2. To contain the infestation and prevent further spread.

#### **Actions the school will take:**

- Should live lice be found upon a child or if a member of staff suspects an infestation, then parents will be contacted to assess the child as soon as possible and establish whether or not there is an infestation. *It is unlikely a member of staff will notice live lice unless there is a significant infestation.*
- We always aim to minimise any embarrassment for a pupil.
- Children will not be excluded from school as this is extreme, unjustifiable and disrupts learning. The parents of the child, will however be requested to treat the child and then they may return back to school after the initial treatment. If the call home is made in the morning, then provided the child is treated, they are welcome to return to school the same day. It is worth noting that head lice continue to need treating until the life cycle of the head louse has passed (7-10 days for the eggs to hatch).
- Reports of any suspected infestation will be kept confidential and on a need-to-know basis only. The matter will be dealt with sensitively with the child’s dignity at the forefront of all that we do.
- Staff will be vigilant in monitoring persistent or untreated cases so as to ensure spread is contained.
- Staff will not carry out physical checks on children for head lice.

- The school will always notify parents either by email or via Tapestry (if in the EYFS setting) where there is a risk of cross-infestation so that parents can be vigilant. Names will never be shared with parents under any circumstances.

**Working in partnership with us:**

- In order to prevent the spread of infestations, we ask that parents work with us for the wider benefit of all children and staff. As such we anticipate that you will monitor your child's hair regularly to ensure no live lice are active. Wet combing once per week with a detection comb is an easy and effective way. <https://www.chc.org/> is a useful website offering advice and resources on the matter.
- We would please ask that if live lice are found that these are treated immediately to reduce the risk of spread to school and family members.
- As with all potentially contagious conditions, we hope that parents will inform us so that we can fully support the child and alert other parents so they may be mindful.

When working with and supporting children, it is important that families work together with school to ensure that children are safe, healthy and can learn. Our aim is that by treating head lice early we can reduce spread and return children happily to school so that they may continue to learn.

Reviewed by: A Peck

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