



WEST GRANTHAM

Church of England Primary Academy

HEADLICE POLICY

Policy	Headlice Policy
Approved by	WGPA
Date	October 2026
Review cycle	2 Years

VERSION CONTROL			
VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	CHANGES
2026	October	NS	New Policy

Contents

Statement of intent	2
Principles	2
Identification of Head Lice	2
Communication with Parents	3
Treatment	3
Attendance	3
Confidentiality and Respect	3
Roles and Responsibilities	4
Monitoring and Review	4

Statement of intent

The West Grantham Church of England Primary Academy recognises that head lice are a common occurrence amongst primary-aged children. This procedure aims to:

- Minimise the spread of head lice within the school community.
- Provide clear guidance for staff and parents.
- Reduce anxiety and stigma associated with head lice.
- Ensure a consistent, proportionate response.

Principles

- Head lice are not caused by poor hygiene and can affect anyone.
- Head lice are spread through close head-to-head contact.
- The responsibility for detection and treatment lies with parents/carers.
- Children with head lice will not normally be excluded from school.
- The school will treat all information sensitively and maintain confidentiality.

Identification of Head Lice

If a member of staff notices a child persistently scratching their head or visible evidence of lice:

- The child will be treated discreetly and sensitively.

- A member of staff will inform the parent/carer at the end of the school day or by telephone where appropriate.
- Staff will not undertake individual head inspections unless specifically required for safeguarding or welfare reasons.
- Staff will not diagnose head lice but may advise parents to check their child's hair.

Communication with Parents

When the school becomes aware of confirmed cases of head lice:

- A general communication may be sent to parents of the relevant class or year group.
- Communications will not identify individual children or families.
- Parents will be encouraged to check their child's hair and treat any infestation promptly.
- Information on effective treatment methods may be shared.

Suggested Parent Message:

We have been made aware of cases of head lice within school. Head lice are common amongst primary-aged children and are spread through close head-to-head contact. Please check your child's hair regularly and begin treatment promptly if live lice are found. Children do not need to remain at home because of head lice. Thank you for your support in helping reduce transmission within our school community.

Treatment

The school expects parents/carers to:

- Regularly check their children's hair.
- Treat any infestation promptly using an appropriate treatment method.
- Continue treatment in accordance with product instructions or healthcare advice.
- Check all household members when head lice are discovered.
- School staff must not apply treatments or carry out combing procedures.

Attendance

Pupils with head lice:

- Should continue to attend school.
- Will not normally be excluded.
- Should return to normal routines while treatment is undertaken.
- Exclusion may only be considered in exceptional circumstances where a parent repeatedly refuses to address a significant infestation affecting the child's welfare.

Confidentiality and Respect

The school will:

- Avoid identifying individual pupils with head lice.
- Challenge any stigma, teasing or bullying.
- Promote understanding that head lice are a common childhood issue.
- Any bullying related to head lice will be dealt with in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents/Carers:

- Check hair regularly.
- Treat infestations promptly.
- Inform the school if appropriate.

School Staff:

- Respond sensitively to concerns.
- Inform parents where head lice are suspected.
- Share information and guidance when necessary.

Headteacher:

- Ensure this procedure is implemented consistently.
- Support staff in responding to concerns from parents.
- Monitor recurring concerns and communication needs.

Monitoring and Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored continually by the headteacher. Any necessary amendments may be made immediately.

Any changes made to this policy will be communicated to staff, pupils, parents and other relevant stakeholders.

The next scheduled review date for this policy is October 2028