

Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly for any lice or eggs. If you can see them in your child's hair please follow the advice and guidance below. It is essential that we all work together to limit the spread of this annoying and upsetting condition.

Who catches head lice?

Anyone can catch head lice, but children and their families are most at risk.

How do you catch head lice?

Head lice are transmitted through direct, prolonged head-to-head contact with a person who has head lice.

What is having head lice like?

Head lice are most commonly found behind the ears and at the back of the neck.

A person with head lice may feel a tickling or itching feeling of something moving in the hair. Most people only realise that they have head lice when the itch has developed, which can take from one week to two-three months after initial infection.

Itching may also occur due to an allergic reaction to the bites. Sores can develop due to scratching and can become infected.

How serious are head lice?

Head lice are not a serious health problem. Head lice rarely cause anything more than an itchy scalp.

Can you prevent head lice?

The best way to stop infection is for people to learn how to check their heads for lice.

Good hair care helps to control lice as it will help to spot and treat lice early.

Should a child with head lice be kept off school?

No! The DfE/DoH guidelines for infection control in schools and nurseries state that there is no need for a child who has head lice to stay away from school.

How can you treat someone with head lice?

A diagnosis of head lice can only be made if a living, moving louse is found.

Detection combing by parents/family members according to instructions is the best method of diagnosis.

Chemical treatments are available, but must only be given after a doctor or experienced nurse has made a diagnosis.

For more information please look at the following website: www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice