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Derbyshire Healthy Schools
Community Award



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Dear Parents/Carers

Head lice

Within most schools headlice can infect a small number of children at any one time. Infection levels remain fairly constant, but if you could regularly check /inspect your child's hair throughout the year, we would be very grateful.

Head lice don't always cause an itchy scalp so people will be unaware that they are infected. Sufferers only develop an itchy scalp if they become sensitive to the louse saliva, and this can take up to two months.

If you suspect your child has headlice, please report this to school. Detection and effective treatment of any head lice outbreaks is key to reducing the problem.

The 5-step detection process:

1. Wash the hair well and towel dry. It should be damp but not dripping wet
2. Comb the hair with an ordinary comb to remove tangles.
3. Using a plastic detection comb (nit comb), start with the teeth of the comb touching the skin of the scalp and comb slowly towards the end of the hair, keeping the teeth in contact with the scalp for as long as possible. Check the comb for any lice. Wiping it with a tissue will help to see if you have removed any lice.
4. Repeat this process for about 10-15 minutes, covering all the scalp and hair.
5. If there is headlice present you will find one or more lice on the comb or tissue.

Sarah Owens