



*Making the difference*

# Head Infestation Policy



## **HEAD INFESTATION POLICY**

Vranch House is aware that head lice can affect children at home and at school.

This policy sets out the duties and responsibilities of parents, carers and the school in dealing with head lice.

It also provides some practical advice as to how to tackle head lice.

### **Parents and carers are encouraged to:**

- Carry out regular weekly or if necessary daily checks to ensure that their child/family is not affected by head lice.
- Treat and remove head lice as soon as they appear in a child's hair.

### **Vranch House will:**

- Provide information by letter to parents/carers when there are cases of head lice in school.
- Offer advice on wet-combing and/or treatment.
- Maintain a visual check on children in school.

### **Vranch House will not:**

- Carry out physical checks on children without parent's consent.
- Tell parents to keep their child away from school because of head lice.
- Exclude a child from school because of head lice.

## **INFORMATION AND ADVICE ABOUT HEAD LICE**

### **What are head lice?**

- They are pin size when they hatch, less than match size when fully grown and are difficult to see in the hair.
- Head lice cannot be prevented but regular checking ensures early detection.
- The eggs are glued individually to hairs near the scalp. Unhatched eggs are dull in colour and hard to see, but after the lice have hatched the empty egg sacs –called 'nits'- are white and easy to see.
- Head lice are easily missed in dry hair and may not cause itching.
- Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim. They spread from person to person by climbing swiftly along hairs during close head-to-head contact.
- Anyone with hair can get head lice.
- Head lice are not fussy about hair length or condition-clean hair is no protection.
- Head lice are not harmful.

### **How to check for head lice**

- The best detection method is wet combing.
- The scalp should be examined in sun-light or under bright artificial light.
- The hair should be parted, with individual strands checked for nits stuck to the hair. Nits are most predictably found on hair at the nape of the neck and behind the ears.



## **Instructions for getting rid of head lice**

### Wet combing

1. Shampoo the hair, rinse, apply lots of conditioner and use a wide-toothed comb to untangle and straighten the hair.
2. Once the tangles have gone, section the hair and comb with a fine-toothed detection comb from root to end. Comb one section at a time, paying particular attention to the back of the neck and behind the ears.
3. Check the comb for live lice between each stroke and remove them.
4. When the whole head of hair has been combed through and checked, rinse off the conditioner.
5. Check all family members at the same time.
6. The time required to wet comb the whole head can take from 2 minutes for short, straight hair to 30 minutes for long curly hair.

### Lotions

You can ask your pharmacist or doctor about which lotion is most effective. People with asthma or allergies, pregnant or breast-feeding mothers, and parents or carers of very young children should always ask their Dr or pharmacist about which treatments are safe for them.