



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

## **Head lice Treatment Policy**

The school acknowledges the unpleasantness, potential expense and inconvenience associated with head lice infestation and is sympathetic to the circumstances families find themselves in when infestation occurs.

We are aware that head lice infest people of all ages and not only children and are not a sign of dirty hair or poor hygiene.

It is our policy to react to infestation within the school in such a way as to:-

1. Minimise the embarrassment, discomfort and potential stigmatisation of the infested person
2. Minimise the risk of infestation to other members of the school community.

To this end we remain vigilant and aware of the potential presence of head lice. We do not check children's hair for infestation but where infestation is noted, we always:-

1. Send a text to all parents in the affected class (or a letter (Appendix 1) if the parent/carer has requested hard copies), alerting them to the presence of infestation and advising on the need to check their child's hair and treat accordingly. If lice are discovered, please ensure the hair is clear before returning to school.
2. Telephone or send a letter (Appendix 2) to the affected child's parents informing them of the need to act and to check the whole family's hair, as well as to keep the child home until their hair is clear. This should not be necessary if immediate action is taken.

We make all reasonable efforts to be available to speak to parents who are distressed or confused by this matter or by our actions, but always maintain the position that the prime responsibility for the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice in a family has to lie with the parents. We advise parents to detection comb their children's hair about once a week.

We do not recommend specific drugs or preparations beyond conditioning and combing, but we do recommend that where infestation persists, parents should contact their GP.

Further information is available from [www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk) (Head lice and Nits). A hard copy is available from the school office.

### **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

This policy has been screened to ensure that we give 'due consideration' to equality of opportunity and has been agreed and formally approved by the appropriate reviewing and ratification Committee.

<b>Author</b>	Val Quest	<b>Date reviewed</b>	January 2016
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