

Head Lice Policy

The Green Room Foundation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Owner: AA/WCFo/KAF/CCMc

Date Created	Date 1st Review Due	Date Reviewed	Version	Next Review Due
February 2017	February 2018	January 2018	2	January 2019
		January 2019	3	January 2020
		October 2020	4	October 2021
	GRK review	February 2021		
	GRW review	February 2021		
	GR6 review (JL, MA)	February 2021	5	February 2022
		February 2022	6	February 2023
		February 2023	7	February 2024
	GRK Review	January 2024		
	GRW Review	January 2024		
	GRC Review	January 2024		
	Overall Review	January 2024	8	January 2025
	GRK Review	January 2025		
	GRW Review	January 2025		
	GRC Review	January 2025		
	Overall Review	January 2025		January 2026
	Overall Review	January 2026		January 2027

Introduction

This policy attempts to set out the duties and responsibilities of parents, the Provision and Health Authorities in dealing with head lice.

Definition

Head lice are tiny insects about the size of a sesame seed. They move from one person to another by head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. They cannot jump to another person's head. Head lice lay eggs which hatch after 7-10 days. It takes about 10 days for a recently hatched louse to grow into an adult and start to lay eggs. Nits are the empty white egg shells which are left when the lice hatch. Nits look like dandruff but stick strongly to hair. Unlike dandruff, you cannot easily brush out nits. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with being dirty or clean and lice do not spread disease or illness.

Parents'/Carers' Responsibilities

The spread of head lice can be minimized with routine inspection for live head lice and nits by all parents or carers and full treatment of those students with live head lice.

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Knowing head lice signs and symptoms.
- Routinely checking their child's head for head lice once a week.
- Telling their child's provision, close friends, etc., that their child has head lice.
- Ensuring that full, proper treatment has been completed before the student returns to the provision.

Advice to Parents/Carers

How to Find Head Lice (See Appendix 1)

- Severe itching is the most common sign of head lice.
- Look for head lice and tiny white or grey coloured eggs called nits. Nits look like tiny water drops and are stuck on the hair. They are hard to remove. While nits might signal a live infestation, they don't necessarily mean that live head lice are present; the eggs may have already hatched.
- Check your own head and the heads of everyone who lives in the home.
- Advise the provision that your child has head lice, also tell the parents of your child's friends to check their child for head lice.

How to treat Head Lice (See Appendix 2)

- Information about special medicated treatments is available from the pharmacist or doctor.
- Only use medicated treatments on your child's head if you find live, moving head lice. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Do not use medicated treatments if you just find eggs or nits.
- After treating your child's hair, make sure there are no live head lice. If you still find head lice that are moving, go back to the pharmacist for help.
- You can choose to remove nits from the hair by pulling them off with your fingernail or a special lice comb, but this is not necessary.

After the first treatment parents/carers should:

- Check the child's head to make sure the treatment was successful. It is deemed successful if no live lice were found.

- Speak to a pharmacist about another chemical treatment if you still find live lice.
- Continue to check the child's head every day for 10 days. This is important as eggs that you are unlikely to have seen will continue to hatch.
- Do a second treatment 7 to 10 days after the first successful treatment. Chemical treatments do not completely kill eggs. The second treatment will kill lice that hatch after the first treatment.

After the second treatment parents/carers should:

- Visually inspect the child's head to make sure the treatment was successful.
- Parents can remove any nits if they choose.
- Inspect the child's head every two days for 10 consecutive days.
- After 10 days of inspecting without detecting more live head lice, return to checking the child's head once a week for nits and lice.

How to Prevent Head Lice

Knowledge is one of the most important steps for both prevention and treatment. Parents and provision staff both play key roles in preventing head lice. It is important that parents regularly check their child's head (see 'Advice to Parents' above) and encourage their child to follow the advice below -

- Do not share personal items, such as combs, hats and scarves.
- Keep hats and scarves in a coat sleeve or pocket instead of in a spot with other hats and scarves.
- Tie long hair back.
- Check your child's head every week for head lice.

The Green Room Foundation will

- Publish this policy on The Green Room Foundation's website and regularly remind parents to check their child's head.
- Promptly notify parents of active head lice infestations (see appendix 3) referring parents to this policy on the website with particular attention to the 'Head Lice Detection Map' Appendix 1.
- Should parents be unable to treat their young person for any reason, The Green Room Foundation will administer the treatment and the young person will be isolated until they can be picked up to go home

Head Lice and Absence from the Provision

Having head lice is not a reason for provision absence as treatment can be administered quickly. However, should live head lice be noticed by a member of staff, a call will be made to the parent/guardian who will be asked to collect the child from the provision immediately. A thorough comb through or chemical treatment done quickly at home will enable the child to be back at the provision on the same day (unless parents are notified late in the afternoon). If the infestation continues for more than three weeks, the Head of Provision will call the parents to discuss what is being done to eradicate the head lice.

This policy is approved by the CEO of The Green Room Foundation

Date _____

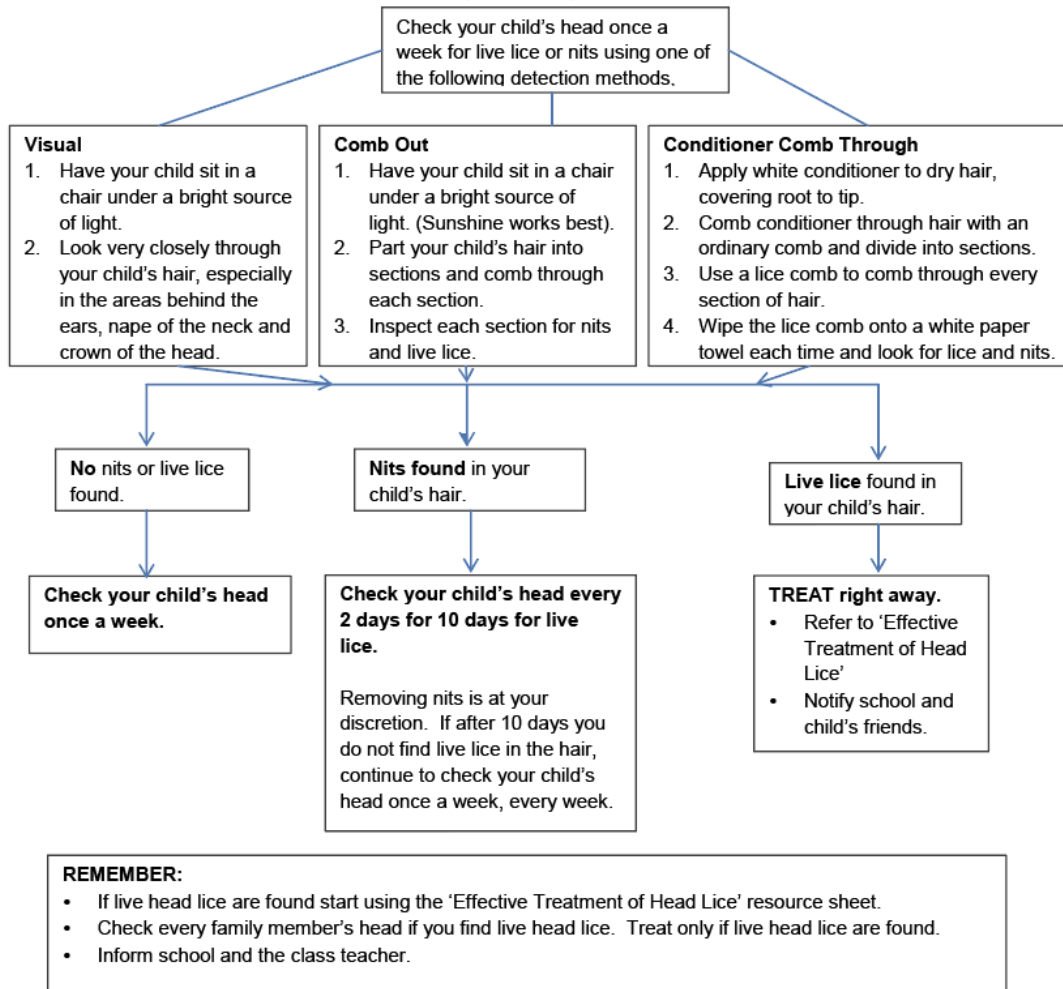
CEO _____

Head Lice Detection Map

If your child has been in contact with a confirmed case of head lice, check your child's head for lice/nits every 2 days for 10 days.

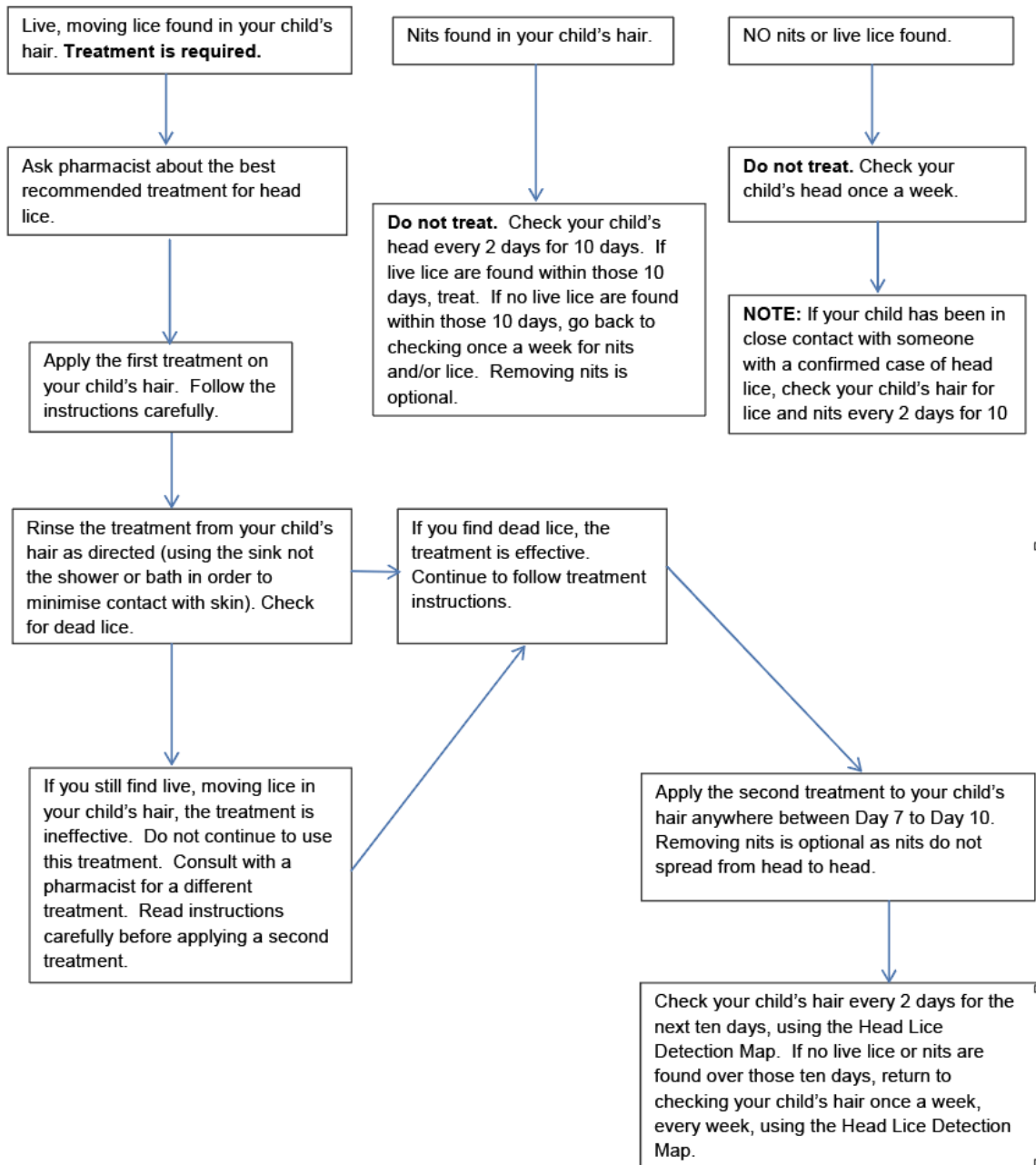
Fast Facts about Head Lice

- Head lice have been a common problem for thousands of years.
 - Head lice do not cause illness or disease.
 - Head lice have 6 strong claws that hold tightly to a hair shaft.
- Head lice can only survive on human heads, not pets or other animals. Head lice or nits are not likely to survive off the head for more than 3 days.
- Head lice do not fly or jump, they crawl from one person to another by close head-to-head contact.
 - Anyone can get head lice.



Effective Treatment of Head Lice

Check your child's head for live lice and nits (Use Head Lice Detection Map)



the GREENROOM foundation

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Tuesday, 21 February 2017

Dear [Parent's name],

I regret to inform you that it seems likely [Young Person's name] may have head lice. Lotion to treat the infection is available from your local pharmacist, who will give you any additional advice and information you may require. Alternatively, you may prefer to consult your GP.

As head lice are mainly spread by prolonged, head-to-head contact, they are usually caught from family and close friends. It is necessary that you advise all of your child's close contacts to check their hair, but treatment should only be applied if a living louse is found. Should your child and their friends require treatment, it is advised that the treatment be carried out at the same time to minimise the risk of reinfection.

Your child does not need to remain absent, but it is important to commence treatment as soon as infection is confirmed.

Useful information on head lice is available at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Yours sincerely,

Callum Flanagan
Head of Provision