



Ard Rí Community National School
Balreask Old,
Navan,
Co. Meath

Roll No. 20352T

Headlice Policy
October 2019



Introduction:

The staff and management of Ard Rí Community National School recognise head lice infections do generate considerable anxiety amongst parents and pupils. It is unlikely that the occurrence of headlice will ever be completely eradicated however an approach which involves the cooperation of home and school will in the long-term help in controlling and limiting headlice infections.

Headlice- The Facts

Management of Infectious Diseases in Schools (October 2014-HSE p.38)

Doc. URL: <https://www.healthpromotion.ie/hp-files/docs/HPM00406.pdf>

Headlice: Lice are small insects, which may live on the head and hairy parts of the body. The type of louse which affects the head is particularly common and anyone can catch them. Lice spread by direct head-to-head contact with an infected person and therefore tend to be more common in children as their play activities facilitate this type of contact. Live lice are transmitted when the lice are alive on a person's head. Lice cannot live away from a human host; most die within 3 days. Lice cannot jump, swim or fly. Their presence does not reflect standards of hygiene. The female lice lay eggs which glue to the hair and only become easily visible when they have hatched and are empty (nits). Nits remain in the hair until it falls out, which may take up to 2 years. Itching and scratching are usually the first signs of headlice but are due to an allergic reaction which can take four to eight weeks to develop after the initial infection. The presence of nits (empty egg casts) does not mean that active infection is present and is not an indication for treatment.

Treatment is only required if live lice are seen in the hair (not nits). There are several different treatment options. Research suggests that the use of chemical agents is more effective than other treatment options, such as lavender, tea-tree oil, and eucalyptus. Treatments such as dimeticone, phenothrin, or malathion are recommended. Dimeticone (Hedrin ®) is a non-neurotoxic agent. It is important to follow the treatment instructions carefully. Alternatively parents may wish to try mechanical removal of lice by wet combing with special narrow-toothed combs and conditioner ("bug busting"). Results of research on this method are mixed. Results depend on a correct and consistent technique and time spent wet combing.



Precautions: The best way to stop infection is for families to learn how to check for lice on a regular basis. This way they can find any lice before they have a chance to breed. They can then treat them and stop them spreading. Regular combing of the hair with a fine-toothed comb (detection combing) should be encouraged at all times. It is better to do this on wet hair. Treatment is only required if live lice are seen in the hair (not nits). If live lice are detected on one member of the family it is important that all other family members are checked for headlice.

In school if live lice are seen on a pupil's head the pupil's parent(s) should be advised to inspect and treat their child for headlice. If there are several cases it may be of benefit to send a letter to all parents advising them to inspect their children's heads and initiate treatment only if live lice are seen.

Exclusion is unnecessary.

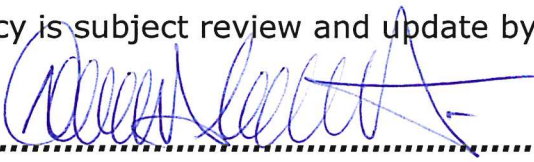
Procedures:

- You'll need to treat your child effectively if they have head lice. There's no need to keep them home from school.
- We encourage parents to carry out 'detection combing' as per HSE Guidelines above. If you find lice treat them immediately to stop them spreading. As per HSE recommendations we encourage chemical treatments as HSE research suggests this is most effective.
- Twice a term we will allocate a weekend as a 'Check for Headlice Weekend'. It is best to treat all pupils with lice at the same time so that untreated children don't re-infect the treated ones. You only need to treat children who have lice.
- In school if live lice are seen on a pupil's head we will discreetly advise parents to inspect and treat their child for headlice.
- If you find lice, notify your child's class teacher as soon as possible.
- If there are two or more cases reported to us at any one time, we will urgently notify the families in the class affected by text message. Once notified please act immediately. Check your child for infection and treat if necessary- to stop lice spreading.
- Pupils must not share hats, combs, brushes, towels, hair slides or hair bands with each other.
- Pupils must store hats in their school bags to reduce the transfer of lice in the cloakroom area.
- We encourage parents to tie back long hair.



Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

This policy is subject review and update by the Board of Management

Signed:  **Chairperson of Board of Mangement**

Signed: **Principal of School**

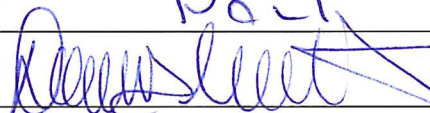
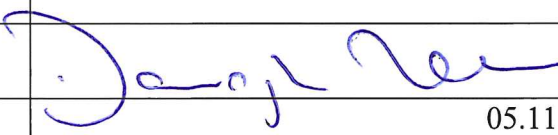
Date:



lmetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board

Policy for Resolution/Ratification by LMETB Board

School	Ard Rí Community National School
Policy Title	Headlice Policy October 2019
Date of School Board of Management Meeting	05.11.2019
Please confirm if a quorum was present at the meeting (4)	Bhí
Please confirm if the completed Policy Consultation Record was presented at the meeting	Bhí
Policy Proposed By	Catherine Dooley
Policy Seconded By	Paul O'Toole
Signed	 Chairperson of Board of Management
Date	05.11.2019
Signed	 Principal
Date	05.11.2019

Board of Management Policy Consultation Record

Please bring this completed form to your Board of Management meeting when considering a policy at BOM level for ratification. Please note that the Board of Management should only ratify a policy once the appropriate consultation process has been completed with students, staff and parents/guardians. More detailed records of consultation should be retained in the school.

In the case of consultation with staff please ensure that the staff have ratified the policy at a staff meeting and that the name of the proposer and seconder for the policy have been included in the minutes of that staff meeting.

School:	Ard Rí Community National School
Policy:	Headlice Policy October 2019

Staff Consultation

Date of Final Consultation:	04.11.2019
Proposed By:	<i>Patricia Conner</i> (Staff Member)
Seconded By:	<i>Laura Farrell</i> (Staff Member)

Parent/Guardian Consultation

Date of Final Consultation:	04.11.2019
Proposed By:	<i>CELINE ROCK.</i> (Parents Association Member)
Seconded By:	(Parents Association Member)