



ST. SENAN'S N.S.
(SCOIL SEANÁIN NAOFA)

Head Lice Prevention Policy



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1.1 Introductory Statement

Headlice is an infection not just restricted to children and adults can also be affected. Recurrent problems with headlice create particular concerns for school, parents and children.

A headlice infection is a community problem, not a school one. However, the school will support families in their efforts to eradicate the problem. One of the major frustrations with headlice is that once an infection has been successfully treated, there is no guarantee against re-infection soon after.

1.2 Rationale

It is unlikely that problems with headlice will ever be completely eradicated, but an approach which involves the co-operation of both school, parents and the community will in the long-term help in controlling and limiting headlice infections.

1.3 Relationship to the Characteristic Spirit of St. Senans

Our aim is to create the best possible educational environment for our pupils to learn. In adopting a pro active approach to dealing with this issue we will minimise the upset that can be caused by an outbreak in the school.

2. Aims of the Headlice Prevention Policy

- To describe the specific policy for management of a headlice outbreak in school
- To ensure consistent advice and procedures are applied in all cases
- To raise awareness within the school community about the nature and management of headlice
- To ensure the roles and responsibilities of parents, children and the school staff are defined and understood

3. Procedures

- Parents are asked to notify the school if their child contracts headlice.
- Once headlice are detected in a class:
 - Parents are invited to come to the school without delay. They withdraw their child to treat the infection directly. They are advised to read the information sheet, available on the school website, which informs parents how to treat headlice.
 - Children will be asked to keep their coats, (hats, scarves, gloves within the sleeve of the coat) hanging on their own designated coat hook

- Following a seconded notification to a class in a term, a text message is sent to alert parents regarding the matter.
- In the event of three or more outbreaks in a term the school will contact the Department of Public Health in Ennis to secure specialised support in tackling the matter.
- If a child is in school with headlice repeatedly, the school reserves the right to ask the parent to keep the child at home until they are correctly treated.
- Once a term, the school will identify a weekend when all parents are requested to check/treat their children's heads.
- Staff will deal with any outbreak of headlice with discretion and confidentiality.

4. Steps the School Takes to Prevent Headlice Outbreaks

1. In order to prevent headlice the school has added to its uniform policy the following statement:
'Children with hair shoulder length or longer than shoulder length must have their hair tied back with a suitable hair accessory. This is for the health and safety of children during class lessons and during PE. It is also a measure put in place to prevent the spread of headlice in the school.'
2. Children are not allowed to play with each other's hair or to share hairbrushes at any time.
3. The Headlice Prevention Policy will be available to all parents on the school website www.stsenans.weebly.com
4. Once a term the school designates a weekend to check/treat all children at the same time.
5. A notification and check/treat procedure has been outlined in this policy and is available on the website.

5. Responsibilities of Parents

Parents are responsible for preventing, detecting and treating headlice infections in their families by arranging:

- To comb children's hair routinely to prevent the survival of lice. It is recommended to do this at least once a week
- To undertake 'contact tracing' among all members of the family who have had head to head contact with an infected person. Contact tracing means informing people about the headlice infection so they can do detection combing and treat if necessary. One of these close contacts is probably the source of the infection.
- To promptly treat any members of the family who have headlice infection.
- To inform the school promptly if a child is infected.
- To use proprietary lotions only as a treatment when an infection is present and NOT as a preventative measure.
- To ensure that their child's hair is either shorter than shoulder length or else tied back with a suitable hair accessory
- To cooperate with the school by coming to collect your child if contacted by the class teacher and fulfilling the steps outlined in the information sheet

5. Role of The School:

- Making information available to parents on the prevention, detection and treatment of headlice both routinely during the school year and when there are problems in the community that are causing concern
- To have consistent approach to headlice infection, as outlined in this policy
- Stock leaflets and information about prevention, detection and treatment of headlice
- Ensure children with shoulder length hair or longer have their hair tied back. Teachers will ask children to tie up their hair if required.

7. Review

This Policy will be reviewed regularly in order to make any necessary changes. Parents will be requested to actively support this Policy.

8. Ratification and Communication

The Policy was ratified on 10th February..... 2020 by the Board of Management. It will be presented to the Parents Association in March 2020.

Signed: Geraldine Lambell (Chairperson)

Date: 10/02/2020