


Southdown Primary School



Headlice Policy 2026

Chair of Governors:	Headteacher: 
Ratified on: 3 rd March 2026	Review by: Spring Term 2029

Southdown Primary School

Headlice Policy

Policy Statement

Head lice are a common occurrence in primary school-aged children. While they do not pose a serious health risk, they can cause discomfort and concern for families.

Southdown Primary School aims to:

- Minimise the spread of head lice.
- Provide accurate, up-to-date information to parents/carers.
- Promote a calm, supportive and non-stigmatising approach.
- Maintain confidentiality for pupils and families.

What Are Head Lice?

Head lice are small insects that live close to the scalp and feed on blood. They:

- Are small (about the size of a sesame seed when fully grown).
- Crawl from head to head through direct contact.
- Do not fly, jump or swim.
- Live in all types of hair (clean or dirty, long or short).

Nits (eggs) are empty egg cases attached to the hair and do not indicate an active infection unless a live moving louse is found.

A person only has head lice if a live moving louse is present. An itchy scalp is not always present.

How Head Lice Spread

Head lice are most commonly spread through:

- Direct head-to-head contact during play.
- Close contact within families.
- Social interactions both inside and outside school.

They are not a sign of poor hygiene.

School Responsibilities

Southdown Primary School will:

1. Share educational information about head lice regularly with parents/carers.
2. Promote routine checking of children's hair at home (ideally weekly).
3. Inform parents/carers confidentially if a live louse is identified in school.
4. Provide signposting to:
 - NHS 111 Wales
 - Local pharmacies for treatment advice
5. Send a general notification to the relevant class when a confirmed case is identified (without naming the child) -Appendix A
6. Maintain confidentiality at all times.

Parent/Carer Responsibilities

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Check their child's hair regularly (at least weekly).
- Carry out treatment promptly if live lice are found.
- Follow recommended treatment guidance.
- Repeat treatment as directed (usually after 7 days, depending on product).
- Inform the school if infestations are persistent.

Treatment Guidance

Current guidance recommends:

- Detection combing using a fine-toothed head lice comb on wet, conditioned hair.
- Medicated treatments only if a live louse is found.
- Following product instructions carefully.
- Seeking advice from a pharmacist if unsure.

Further information can be found via:

- NHS 111 Wales [NHS 111 Wales - Health A-Z : Head lice and nits](#)
- Public Health Wales

Confidentiality and Safeguarding

- Individual cases will be treated sensitively and confidentially.
- No child will be singled out or named.
- Persistent or extreme cases may be discussed with the School Nurse where appropriate.

Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Impact Statement

Southdown Primary School is committed to the protection and promotion of positive mental health and emotional wellbeing of our whole school community; pupils, staff, parents and carers. We recognise how important mental health and emotional well-being is to our lives in just the same way as physical health. This Policy has been written and reviewed in line with our school's vision and Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Policy.

Equality Impact Assessment

Under the Equality Act 2010 we have a duty not to discriminate against people on the basis of their age, disability, gender, gender identity, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief and sexual orientation. This policy has been quality impact assessed and we believe that it is line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote quality at Southdown Primary School.

Subject: Head Lice – Important Information for Parents/Carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that a case of head lice has been identified in your child's class.

Head lice are a common occurrence in primary schools and are spread through close head-to-head contact. They are not related to poor hygiene and can affect anyone.

We kindly ask that you check your child's hair carefully this evening and over the coming week. You are looking for a live, moving louse close to the scalp. Nits (empty egg cases) alone do not indicate an active infection.

If you find live lice:

- Begin treatment promptly.
- Follow the instructions on the product carefully.
- Repeat treatment as recommended.
- You may wish to seek advice from your local pharmacist or visit NHS 111 Wales online for further guidance.

Children do not need to be absent from school once treatment has started.

We appreciate your support in checking regularly, as this helps minimise further spread within the class.

If you have any questions or need further advice, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards,