

Appendix 25

Head Lice guidance.

- Infection by head lice can be an emotive issue. Attitudes to head lice and their treatment vary from country to country and often within countries. Parents will therefore have a range of expectations. You need to be aware of this in your communications with parents and be able to explain the rationale behind your policy. This rationale should go beyond 'this is how we deal with things in the UK/Netherlands'.
- Wherever possible, we suggest that as well as consulting the Shell medical department you also contact the local health authorities to find out about any local regulations
- In drawing up a policy and in informing parents you can draw on information and guidance from useful and authoritative websites from different countries - such as:
- <http://www.headlice.org/>,
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>,
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/>,
http://www.toronto.ca/health/hl_index.htm;
<http://www.huidinfo.nl/hoofdluis.html>,
<http://www.ggdgezondheidsinfo.nl/dossiers.asp?regioid=&dossierid=42>.
- You are more likely to get parental support for your policy if there has been wide involvement and consultation. One approach is to:
 - Send the website links to your board members and/or PTA (consult and communicate accordingly)
 - Consult your company medical department - ask for a representative to come to the meeting
 - Consult the local medical authorities to find out about any local regulations or advice - ask for a representative to come to the meeting
 - At the meeting say that you are aware that head lice can be an emotive issue and that in different countries here are different views about treatment. Say that you would like people's considered and informed (assuming they have looked at the websites and listened to the medical professionals) advice about how to deal with the issue in school
 - Then draw up (or get someone else to draw up) a policy/procedure that takes into account all the advice and opinions
 - Publicise the policy/procedure - recognising that not everyone will be happy with it but that you have the backing of the board and/or PTA