



## Head Lice

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The latest government guidance to all schools is that we **do not** send letters home about head lice. The Department of Health deems that these letters encourage people to treat unnecessarily, and can cause itching and anxiety as a psychological response.

Head lice are **not serious**, but can be very **annoying**.

- The Department of Health says that head lice is a normal condition and does not warrant health involvement from schools.
- Research has shown that infections occur just as often in school holidays as during term time.
- A routine of regularly wet combing everyone's hair in the family to check for lice is advisable.
- You should only treat if live lice are found.
- There is no need for a child who has head lice to stay away from school.

In line with the Department of Health guidance, Withycombe Raleigh Primary School will no longer send letters home about head lice. If you are at all worried about head lice or feel you need more advice about how to cope, please consult your health visitor, or pharmacist.

For more information: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>