Contact Tracing Form

Name	Tick when checked

Head Lice Hints and Tips

If you have identified a head louse infection, one of the key steps in controlling the spread of the infection is contact tracing. As head lice infections are caught through head to head contact, at least one of your child's close contacts must have (or have had) a head louse infection. It may also be the case that your child has unknowingly passed the infection to another child. The aim of contact tracing is to identify others with infection to stop it from being passed further.

Some parents can find the process of contact tracing uncomfortable and embarrassing, especially if they don't know the parents of other children very well. Always remember:

- Head lice are nothing to be embarrassed about. Many children will have a head louse infection at some point in their lives; many will have more than one. Instead of being embarrassed, why not, as parents with different levels of experience, talk to each other for advice and help one another.
- Head lice infections do not indicate that a child is dirty - or, for that matter, clean! – They have no preference. No child or parent should be made to feel that head lice infections reflect on their level of cleanliness.
- Head lice infections are not anyone's fault – remember every child who has head lice must have caught them from someone else, and will quite possibly pass them on to someone else.

If someone approaches you about a head louse infection, which may have affected your child, do not be worried or offended. Simply use the information in this leaflet to help you through the situation.