



# Sacred Heart R.C. Primary School

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## THREADWORMS

Threadworms are **very** contagious and if any child has them parents are asked to inform the school at once.

### THREADWORMS – ADVICE FOR SCHOOLS

This is the most common intestinal worm infection in the United Kingdom. It is mainly an infection of young children but can involve adults, usually as a result of spread from younger children.

#### Symptoms

Threadworm infection usually causes itching of the skin around the anus. The skin can become broken and infected as a result of repeated scratching. Occasionally people can have the infection without any symptoms.

#### Spread

Threadworms pass directly from person to person from hand to mouth. The eggs are transferred from the anal region of the infected person on their hands to other people who transfer the eggs to their mouths and catch the infection. Underwear, nightwear and other articles may become contaminated with worm eggs and can act as a source of infection to others.

#### Prevention

The mainstay of prevention is good hygiene and the prompt treatment of cases. Hands should be washed before eating and preparing food, nails should be kept short and clean, scratching the bare anal area and nail biting should be discouraged. Underclothes, nightwear and bedding should be changed regularly.

All cases require treatment and whole families may require treatment if more than one family member is affected. Multiple cases in schools can be controlled by the simultaneous treatment of all cases and their household contacts.

#### Exclusion period

There is no need for children to be excluded from school once the whole family have been treated.