

## Forres Sandle Manor ( Non - Academic) Policy

<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT OF TICKS IN SCHOOL</b>
<b>Policy Lead</b>	School Nurse (CP)
<b>Date of last Review</b>	June 2026
<b>Date of next Review</b>	Sept 2027

### **Tick policy**

Ticks are small, bloodsucking arthropods, which are present throughout the uk. They prefer moist shady areas such as grass and bushes, and least prefer dry areas, but they can survive in many places including parks and gardens. Ticks attach themselves to animals to feed, and will also attach themselves to humans by transferring from vegetation.

Ticks are carriers of a disease known as Lymes disease, which if untreated can lead to serious illness. While not all ticks carry the disease, and not all tick bites will result in infection, it is important to take necessary precautions to prevent them. After spending time outdoors Children and adults need to be checked for ticks. The longer they stay attached the higher the risk of infection. Their bites are painless so a person will not necessarily know they have been bitten.

It is recommended that:

Children wear long trousers or long socks during this season if they are going out in the forest.

Check the children on return - legs, arms, neck, ears and hairline.

- **Parental consent** - most schools require consent from a parent before the tick is removed. Verbal or email.

- **In Nursery and preprep the child** must be sent up to the surgery to see the Nurse or Matron to assess the Tick. In holidays, when no matron or nurse are present, Nursery will contact the parents to come and collect their child ( to remove the tick themselves or take to GP)
- **Removal method-** Trained Staff are instructed to use tick removal hook or sterile tweezers. Grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible, popping the tick out without leaving the head in.
- Do not squeeze the Ticks body or smother with petroleum jelly, heat or alcohol as the can increase the risk of the tick ejecting venom in distress, which can increase the risk of disease.
- **Notification** - if the tick is removed, the parents need to be informed via School Base. If unable to remove, the parents will also be notified.
- **Aftercare** - The area can be disinfected with antiseptic, and parents are asked to monitor for symptoms (like rash, fever or round target like mark) for up to 4 weeks. Consult a Dr if a rash appears or the child feels unwell. Around two - thirds of people who contract Lyme disease will get a target like rash on the bite site.