

HEAD LICE POLICY

1.0 Objectives

The objective of this document describes the process to control head lice

2.0 Scope

This process applies to GIIS Dubai.

3.0 Policies

- a. Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice we work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist to manage head lice effectively.
- b. No routine lice checks are needed. There is no requirement for the schools to undertake routine “head lice inspection” programs. However, if a case of suspected head lice is reported to the school nurse a head inspection is carried out by the school nurse.
- c. If the teacher suspect, the nurse should check and the doctor if available should confirm
- d. Head lice and nits can be visible with the naked eye, It’s recommended to use the conditioner/fine toothed combing detection method, although use of a magnifying lens may be necessary to find crawling lice or to identify a developing nymph inside a viable nit. Nits are often confused with other particles found in hair such as dandruff, hair spray droplets, and dirt particles.
- e. Only exclude children from school with live lice.
- f. No need to send kids who were infested immediately home from school
- g. Send kids home at the end of the day with a note if a school nurse discovers lice
- h. Children found to have nits are allowed to come to school
- i. Children are allowed back in school with nits provided they’ve been treated with a medicated shampoo to remove lice
- j. Repeat treatment one week after the first shampoo to ensure that any bugs that hatch from the eggs — which treatments don’t destroy — will be eradicated
- k. Children with adult lice should receive treatment before they return to school
- l. If a parent opts out of allowing the nurse to examine their child, they must however collect the child as requested and have the child examined by another medical practitioner.
- m. The child can return to school once a medical note is provided from a doctor stating that the child is now clear of live head lice.

- n. To support parents/ carers to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management, the school will undertake to:

Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff as requested. Include information and updates in school newsletters.

Parents' Responsibilities

Mass screening of all pupils in a classroom and/or school does not control the spread of head lice. Rather, the spread of head lice can be minimized with routine inspection for live head lice and nits by all parents and full treatment of those pupils with live head lice.

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Knowing head lice signs and symptoms.
- Routinely checking their child's head for head lice once a week.
- Telling their child's school, close friends, etc., that their child has head lice.
- Ensuring that full, proper treatment has been completed before the pupil
- Returns to school.

Advice to Parents

How to Find Head Lice

Severe itching is the most common sign of head lice. Look for head lice and tiny white or gray colored eggs called nits. Nits look like tiny water drops and are stuck on the hair. They are hard to remove. While nits might signal a live infestation, they don't necessarily mean that live head lice are present; the eggs may have already hatched.

Check your own head and the heads of everyone who lives in the home.

- Advise school that your child has head lice, also tell the parents of your child's friends to check their child for head lice.

How to treat Head Lice

- Information about special medicated treatments is available from the pharmacist or doctor.
- Only use medicated treatments on your child's head if you find live, moving head lice. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Do not use medicated treatments if you just find eggs or nits. After treating your child's hair, make sure there are no live head lice. If you still find head lice that are moving, go back to the pharmacist or doctor for help.
- You can choose to remove nits from the hair by pulling them off with your fingernails or a special lice comb, but this is not necessary. After the first treatment parents should:
- Check the child's head to make sure the treatment was successful. It was successful if no live lice were found.
- Speak to a pharmacist about another chemical treatment if you still find live lice. Continue to check the child's head every day for 10 days. This is important as eggs that you are unlikely to have seen will continue to hatch.
- Do a second treatment 7 to 10 days after the first successful treatment. Chemical treatments do not completely kill eggs. The second treatment will kill lice that hatch after the first treatment.

After the second treatment parents should:

- Visually inspect the child's head to make sure the treatment was successful.

- Parents can remove any nits if they choose.
- Inspect the child's head every two days for 10 consecutive days.
- After 10 days of inspecting without detecting more live head lice, return to checking the child's head once a week for nits and lice.

How to Prevent Head Lice

Knowledge is one of the most important steps to both prevention and treatment. Parents and school staff both play key roles in preventing head lice. It is important that parents regularly check their child's head and encourage their child to follow the advice below.

- Do not share personal items, such as combs, hats and scarves.
- Keep hats and scarves in a coat sleeve or pocket instead of in a spot with other hats and scarves.
- Tie long hair back.
- Check your child's head every week for head lice.

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