



JEDDAH PREP AND GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Head Lice Policy

This policy has been written in conjunction with the Headmaster, Head of Prep School and the School Nurse and the information given taken from the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/index.html

Head Lice outbreaks are recognised as a community problem and continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents and families, teachers and children. This policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner. Whilst parents and families have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

Background

Head lice can affect anyone but are more common in children between the ages of 3-11 (Prep School) and their families. They are not a health hazard and do not transmit diseases. Anyone can be infected with head lice and it is not related to their personal or environmental cleanliness. However, a diagnosis of head lice can cause anxiety and distress, these reactions can cause unnecessary over-reaction and perception of the presence of head lice in school.

Head lice are most commonly contracted by head to head contact with an infected person, usually close family members or friends. The classroom is only one of many environments where head lice can be transmitted, they are often contracted wherever children play together - at home, in school, play areas, sports activities, sleep overs. Head lice cannot fly or jump and it is much less common to get them from clothing, hats, scarves, hairbrushes or chairs.

A diagnosis of head lice is only determined if live head lice are detected on the scalp. Nits are not the same as a head lice and does not necessarily indicate that a head lice infection is present. Sometimes the presence of head lice can go undetected as the person may have no symptoms. It can take several weeks before a person can have symptoms of itching, tickling scalp or disturbed sleep.

Pupils with Head Lice in School

Pupils diagnosed with live head lice or nits do not need to be sent home early from school as they have most likely to have been infected for two weeks before they are detected. The school nurse will contact the parents who will decide whether they would like to collect their child from school or at the end of the school day.

When a pupil is found to have nits or head lice, a letter will be sent home to parents of all the pupils in their year group at the end of the day, advising parents and families to check their child and families using detection combing for head lice or nits.

Head lice checks of whole classes by the school nurse are not routinely carried out as this does not prevent head lice infections in school.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL NURSE

- Check pupil's hair if head lice are suspected in the school clinic.
- If head lice or nits are detected, contact the parents of the pupil directly to inform them and advise on treatment. Parents will decide whether to collect their child from school.
- Distribute head lice notification letter to the classes of the relevant school year to inform parents and advise on checking their child for possible head lice.
- Give parents and families up to date and relevant information on the detection, treatment and prevention of head lice.
- To be a source of information and advice for parents and teachers.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILIES

- Understand the facts about head lice and how to detect and treat head lice.
- Check the heads of children and families once a week. Checks should be carried out weekly if there has been notification of head lice in your child's class.
- Combing with nit comb.
- Treat only when live head-lice are found using a recommended treatment.
- Teach your child about prevention of head lice – avoiding head to head contact, not sharing brushes, hats and to keep long hair tied back.
- Notify the school nurse or class teacher if you have detected head lice in your child's hair.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SCHOOL

- If a member of staff suspects that a pupil may have head lice, they are to treat them with sensitivity and take them to the school clinic. Pupil's privacy should be respected and they should not be checked in the classroom.

- Distribute year group letters and treatment information to parents and families when head lice are detected.
- Review the head lice management policy following the latest health advice.

HOW TO CHECK FOR HEAD LICE

What you need...

- Detection Nits comb (available from the pharmacy)
- Ordinary comb
- Good lighting
- Wash the hair and dry it with a towel, leaving the hair damp.
- Make sure you have good light, daylight is best.
- Comb the hair with an ordinary comb.
- Using the detection comb, start to comb from the scalp and pull the comb down the hair staying in contact with the scalp for as long as possible.
- Comb the hair in sections, starting behind the ears.
- Check the comb after each use for head lice using good light.
- If there are head lice they will be in the teeth of the comb – head lice are about the size of a sesame seed and have moving legs.
- Make sure the comb is cleaned between each use.

HOW TO TREAT HEAD LICE

- Comb with conditioner and nit comb weekly.
- Do not treat unless you are sure you have found living head lice.
- If live head lice are found, check the whole family.
- Treat only those who have head lice and treat them at the same time.
- Use only a recommended treatment from your pharmacy and follow the instructions carefully.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Repeat the treatment in seven days on everyone treated the first time.

PREVENTION

- Comb weekly with nit comb and conditioner.
- Avoid head to head contact.
- Do not share personal items such as brushes, combs, towels, hats, scarves.
- Tie back long hair.
- Routinely check for head lice once weekly using a nit comb.

Information Websites

Head First Lice lessons:

<http://headfirstlicelessons.org/>

Center of Disease and Control prevention:

https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/index.html

SCHOOL NURSE

Email: nurse@jpgs.org

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