

## Head Lice and Nits Policy

### GFM Vision statement

At GFM we empower students to have the heart to celebrate uniqueness and the mind to be innovative, creative problem solvers, bringing a positive change to the world in which we live.

### 1. Introduction

Head lice are tiny insects that live in human hair. They are particularly common in children. They can't fly, jump or swim and are spread by head-to-head contact, climbing from the hair of an infected person to the hair of someone else. A head lice infestation isn't the result of dirty hair or poor hygiene. All types of hair can be affected, regardless of its length and condition.

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 nits. Nits are often confused with other particles found in hair such as dandruff, hair spray droplets, and dirt particles.

Head lice continue to be an ongoing nuisance. The GFM attends to the guidelines for the treatment and eradication of head lice.

### 2. Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures for schools and parents to follow in the treatment of head lice and nits.

### 3. Aims and Objectives

- Decrease school absenteeism
- Support families in their efforts to control and eliminate head lice
- Maintain student privacy

### 4. Assessment and recording

#### Symptoms

Head lice often cause a person's scalp to itch. Itching isn't caused by lice biting the scalp, but by

an allergy to the lice. However, not everyone is allergic to head lice, so you may not notice a head lice infestation. In some cases, a rash may appear on the back of the neck. This caused by a reaction to lice droppings.

In working with head lice and student, it is important to keep the following elements in mind:

- Implementation of head lice surveillance and control procedures is based on current scientific research and best practice.
- Information about head lice infestation is to be shared on a "need to know" basis.
- Consideration of the student's ability to understand whether or not they have head lice and if having this information is developmentally appropriate.
- The importance of the School Nurse and/or school staff documenting head lice surveillance efforts.

Note: In case of suspected head lice are reported to the school nurse a head inspection may be carried out by the school nurse. If the teacher suspect, the nurse should check and the doctor if available should confirm.

If a parent opts out of allowing the nurse to examine their child, they must however collect the child, they must however collect the child as requested and have the child examined by another medical practitioner.

When a student is found to have live lice:

The parent is notified and information related to detection and elimination of head lice can be provided at that time or sent home with the student in a sealed envelope. Best practice is to also attempt contact personally.

Student with live lice is excluding from school & the parent is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school.

Children with adult lice should receive treatment before they return to school. 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.

Children are allowed back in school with nits provided they've been treated with medicated shampoo to remove lice.

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.

In some cases (based on the School Nurse's professional judgment), it may be appropriate to have the student's head checked upon return to school.

If lice and/or nits are found, the parent is notified to keep nit-picking and combing (at least daily per day for the next two weeks).

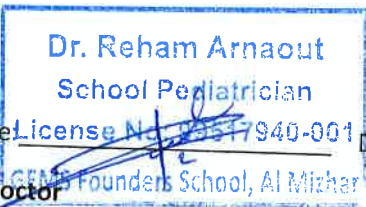
Student hair strands can only be cut if parent permission has first been obtained either in person or by telephone.

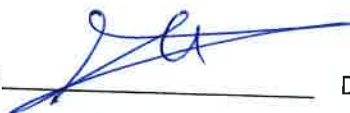
Follow up head checks may be done by school staff to confirm lice management efforts. Record these head checks.


If live lice/nits are found the process of notification to parents/guardians begins again.

### Review and monitoring

This policy has been reviewed and agree on with the Manager of school Operations and Principal, to be implemented and shared with all concerned staff.

  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6.2.2023  
School doctor

Signature:  Date: 6/2/23  
MSO (Manager of school operations)

Signature:  Date: Feb 23  
School Principal

Next review date: 7.2.2024