

## HEAD LICE POLICY

SBS is responsible for supporting children's health and wellbeing. Staff and families have a collective responsibility for reducing and controlling the spread of head lice and the purpose of this policy is to provide staff with a guide to the management of head lice in school. It is important to recognise that head lice can be a sensitive topic and the following procedures make recommendations in the best interest of all children and others impacted by head lice.

SBS will continue to seek opportunities to increase its collective understanding of and response to managing head lice with families effectively. This policy ensures that families and staff are aware of their responsibilities and provide a consistent approach to assist the treatment and control of head lice.

Remember: Head lice are not uncommon, and can affect anyone, regardless of hair cleanliness, hair color, hair type, ethnicity or age.

### AIMS

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To act in the interests of other children and members of the school community.
- To provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- To ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter/communicator.

### POLICY STATEMENT

When a member of school staff suspects that a child is infested with head lice:

#### Teachers:

1. Inform the School Nurse.
2. The child should be restricted from activities involving close contact or sharing personal items (i.e. hats, brushes, and clothing) with other children.
3. Any student with nits may remain in school until the end of the school day. The parents will be notified for treatment to commence at home. If the child has live lice, the parents will be called for prompt treatment and will be asked to pick up their child at the school clinic.
4. Children will not be identified to other children or parents as having head lice to respect the child's privacy and prevent ridicule.
5. Children will be allowed to return to school after treatment has commenced and will be re-checked by the School Nurse.

#### School Nurse:

1. Inspect the child for head lice/nits if this is suspected.
2. If head lice/nits are detected notify the parents (verbal communication is preferred where possible), which will be followed with a letter confirming that the child will not return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced. Parents are to be offered an information brochure regarding the correct treatment for head lice.

3. Regularly distribute up-to-date information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to families and staff – especially when head lice have been detected. All families will be informed of an outbreak within the school (without identifying individuals) and encouraged to take extra care.
4. Inform and remind families of the need to check for head lice more frequently (e.g. on a weekly basis) – particularly when head lice have been detected.
5. For students who appear not to have received effective treatment, and remain infected, staff will continue to apply the above procedure and individual cases will be dealt with sensitively by the Nurse.

### **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, SBS will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist families to manage head lice effectively.

#### **Parent/Carer**

- Children's hair should be checked for head lice at home on a regular basis.
- If live lice are found, the child does not attend school until treatment is carried out and no live lice remain in the hair.
- Regularly inspect all household members and treat appropriately if lice are found.
- Parents / carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise the school when appropriate treatment has been commenced.
- To be aware of and follow the school's head lice management policy.

#### **The School Nurse**

- Will support parents/carers and the school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management.
- Will distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the school year or more frequently if required.
- Include information and updates on the issue of head lice if identification of lice within the school occurs.
- Provide practical advice, sympathetic attitude and confidentiality to parents who are experiencing difficulty with lice control measures.
- Will inform parents when live lice or eggs (nits) have been noticed on their child's head by direct telephone contact if possible.
- Will educate pupils about head lice to encourage accurate identification, reporting and to minimise the transfer of lice whilst also minimising stigma associated with having lice.

#### **All Staff**

- It is the responsibility of any teaching professional or other staff member to maintain confidentiality and report all suspected cases of head lice to the School Nurse.
- Staff will act responsibly and respectfully especially around issues of head lice.
- Staff will provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising/blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.

**(Appendix: Head lice notification letter to parents)**

## Appendix

[Date]

Dear Parents,

Please be aware we have had several confirmed cases of headlice. Please can we request that all children take their hats home to be washed as soon as possible ready for use. It is recommended that the hats are washed at a minimum of 60°C (130F) to kill any lice or eggs. Please could you also take the time to check your child's head for lice, here is a guide on how;

- 1. Check your child's scalp.** Part the hair in various places and check the scalp behind the ears and at the nape of the neck. You may notice sores or a rash where your child has been scratching.
- 2. Look for movement in the hair.** You're not likely to see the lice themselves. They're very small, move quickly, and avoid light, so they're difficult to spot.
- 3. Look for lice eggs, known as nits.** These tiny white or yellowish tear drop-shaped sacs are attached to the hair near the scalp (within a quarter inch if they haven't yet hatched). Nits may be easier to feel than to see: They'll feel like grains of sand.
- 4. Make sure the "nits" you see are really nits.** Nits are often hard to distinguish from dandruff or flakes of hair products. The difference is that nits stick to the hair like glue while dandruff and other flakes are easily removed from the hair shaft. If any are found please commence treatment before sending your child to school; a variety of treatments are available from a pharmacy.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact us in the school clinic.

Kind Regards,

*Nurse May*

Lead School Nurse

Safa British School

**Implementation Date: September 2019**

**Review Date: September 2020**

**Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_**

**May Ann Angeles, DHA-RN  
Lead School Nurse**

**Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Zara Harrington  
Principal**