



مدرسة جيمس متروبول الواحة
GEMS Metropole School
AL WAHA

POLICY

Head Lice

Approved by:	Jeremy Hallum (Principal)
Last reviewed on:	August 2023
Next review due by:	August 2026

MISSION

Lead, nurture and succeed.

VISION

A sustainable and inclusive community hub, nurturing future leaders.

Nurturing
LEADERSHIP



This policy is applied at MTW alongside our school's vision, mission and values. Alongside the principles of High Performance Learning; VAA and A.C.P. characteristics.

Introduction

Head lice are tiny insects that can 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. It is a harmless nuisance. Head lice (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.

Purpose of the Policy

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

Aims and Objectives

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

Assessment and recording

Head lice often cause a person's scalp to itch. Itching isn't caused by the 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 is 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 confidential
- 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
- If a case of suspected head lice is reported to the school nurse, a head inspection may be carried out by the school nurse. If the teacher suspects, 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 collect the child and have the child examined by another medical practitioner.

When a student is found to have live lice:

- The parent is notified and information shared
- Student with live lice is excluded from school and the parent is instructed that the student should be treated before returning to school.
- Children with live lice should receive treatment before returning to school. The child can return once a medical note is provided from a doctor stating that the child is now clear from head lice.
- Children are allowed back in school with nits provided they have been treated with medicated shampoo to remove lice.



- Repeating treatment after one week from the first use of shampoo is required to ensure that any bugs that hatch from the eggs (which treatments don't destroy) will be eradicated.
- It may be appropriate to have the student's head inspected upon return to school.
- If dead lice and/or nits are found the parent is notified to keep checking and combing (at least once a day for the next 2 weeks)

Monitoring and review

This policy is monitored by MTW Senior Leaders and will be reviewed every three years or earlier if necessary.

