

1. PURPOSE

Head lice causes frustration for parents, teachers, and children.

This policy outlines roles, responsibilities and expectations to assist with treating head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

2. APPLICABILITY

To ensure effective management of children and adults with head lice at Swiss International Scientific School in Dubai, all members of staff play a vital role in providing a safe and positive learning environment.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of the school nurses, doctor, teachers, teaching assistants and pupils to observe precautions on transmission of head lice and to report any case.

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

3.1. Responsibility of the Parents:

It is expected that the parents of SISD students must abide by the following:

- Child's hair is checked regularly for head lice. Using the recommended conditioner/fine toothed combing detection method.
- Children do not attend school with untreated head lice.
- Parents/guardians will regularly inspect all household members and treat as necessary.
- Parents/guardians will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice to commence screening of the classroom, and advice the school nurses when appropriate treatment was commenced.
- Children with long hair will attend school with hair tied back.
- Parents/ guardians will notify their child's friends, so they have an early opportunity to detect and treat if necessary.

3.2. Responsibility of the School Nurses:

To support parents/ guardians to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management, the School Clinic Team will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff members as requested.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters.
- Only exclude children from school with live lice.
- Review the head lice policy manual.

4. PROCEDURE

- There is no requirement for SISD to undertake routine “head lice inspection” programs. However, if a case of head lice is confirmed by the school nurses; a head inspection will be carried out in the classroom of that student, and on his/her siblings.
- Should a case of head lice or nits be discovered by the school nurse or reported by a parent /care giver, a notification letter (not identifying name of the affected pupil) is sent to that child’s class parents/guardians.
- To prevent further spread of head lice, the school nurses will phone the parents of a child found to be carrying head lice during examination.
- The parents will be asked to collect the child from school and to treat him/her immediately.
- **Parents of a child with live lice must abide by at least one of the following conditions upon their child’s return to school:**
 - A child with live lice will need to take at least 3 days leave, after start of head lice treatment. OR,
 - The child can return to school once a medical note is provided from a doctor / hair lice specialist, following treatment, stating that the child is now clear of head lice.
- Students with nits will be allowed to continue school as long as they are receiving treatment at home.
- Upon return to school, the student must be brought to the school nurse to have his/her hair checked before going to the classes.
- If the child is found to be free of head lice, they can resume their school activities as normal.
- Should they still carry head lice, they will be asked to return home for further treatment until the problem has been resolved, and the quarantine period will be extended.