



Policy on Head Lice

Great Hearts Academies are committed to utilizing evidence-based best practice for lice management in a manner that respects the privacy of students and families. We are committed to taking appropriate measures ensuring the health and safety of all our students and staff members.

Students diagnosed with live head lice do not need to be sent home from school early and disrupt the educational process; they can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to class after appropriate treatment has begun. Nits may be persistent after treatment, but successful treatment will kill active lice.

Upon confirmation of live lice, the parent/guardian will be notified and instructed to pick up the student at the end of the school day. Siblings of the student will also be examined for active lice and or nits. In the event there is a second finding of live lice in an individual classroom, letters will be sent to the parents/guardians of children in that classroom.

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE

The evidence shows that:

“The American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School

Nurses discourage “no-nit policies that exclude children from school” This information was

Retrieved at this link: <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/135/5/e1355#sec-32> , 4/29/20

1. Management of head lice may be accomplished without exclusion from school thus promoting attendance and academic achievement.
2. Head lice does not cause serious illness or carry disease.
3. Presence of nits does not definitively indicate active infestation.
4. Lice are rarely transmittable in the school setting.
5. Outbreaks of lice are not related to students with nits returning to class.
6. No pediculicide is 100% ovicidal, and resistance is evident with most of the products.
7. Lice are primarily spread through prolonged head-to-head contact. Rarely it is spread through sharing items such as combs, brushes and hats.
8. Given that lice are rarely spread in the classroom setting, class-wide screenings are not appropriate or necessary, especially to protect student privacy and prevent stigmatization of the student.

Approved 4/19/2021