

Head Lice (Pediculosis) Policy

Control Information

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Owner/Curator	Melissa Harris
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Revision Description	Originator
A	May 9, 2013	Initial Release	Melissa Harris

Process for Identification and Management of Cases of Head Lice

1.1. Objective:

The objective of this policy is the following:

- 1.1.1. Provide a procedure to help staff identify and manage cases of head lice.
- 1.1.2. Help prevent the spread of head lice among the student population.

1.2. Definition of Head Lice:

Head lice are tiny gray-brown wingless parasitic insects that affect only humans. They live by sucking blood from the scalp. Nits are head lice eggs - tiny cream or translucent, teardrop shaped specks that are stuck to the base of hairs. An infestation of head lice is known as *pediculosis capitis*.

1.3. Procedure:

- 1.3.1. If a student appears to have symptoms of head lice, a staff member will perform a screening. If the student is found with live head lice or nits, he/she will be discouraged from close, direct head-to-head contact with others, and the child's parent or guardian will be notified that prompt, effective treatment is necessary.
- 1.3.2. In the instance that a student is found to have an active case of head lice, staff will perform a head check of every child in the school to ensure that all active cases are identified and subsequently treated. All parents will be notified if a case of head lice is found at the school, although the name(s) of affected student(s) will not be disclosed.
- 1.3.3. The student(s) will be allowed to return to school after being treated and an inspection conducted by a school staff member indicates that there are no live lice or nits. In place of an inspection by a school staff member, the school will accept a note from a medical professional indicating that no live lice or nits were found.

1.4. No Nits Policy:

- 1.4.1. Muddy Creek Charter School abides by a “No Nits” policy, which means that any student found to have live lice or nits, will be sent home for treatment. That student may not return to school unless, upon inspection, they are found to be free of both live lice and nits.