



NEW YORK
ACADEMY

NYA HEAD LICE POLICY

Head Lice and Nits

Head lice are tiny insects about the size of a sesame seed. They move from one person to another by head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact. They cannot jump to another person's head. Head lice lay eggs which hatch after 7-10 days. It takes about 10 days for a recently hatched louse to grow into an adult and start to lay eggs.

Nits are the empty white egg shells which are left when the lice hatch. Nits look like dandruff but stick strongly to hair. Unlike dandruff, you cannot easily brush out nits.

Parents and Guardians Are Responsible for:

- Knowing head lice signs and symptoms.
- Routinely checking their child's head for head lice once a week.
- Telling their child's school, close friends, etc., that their child has head lice.
- Ensuring that full, proper treatment has been completed before the student returns to school.

How to Find a Head Louse?

- Severe itching is the most common sign of head lice so look for head lice and tiny white or grey coloured eggs called nits.
- Check for the same for yourself and everyone
- Inform school that your child has head lice

How to Treat Head Lice?

Knowledge is one of the most important steps to both prevention and treatment. Parents and school staff both play key roles in preventing head lice. It is important that parents regularly check their child's head and encourage their child to follow the advice below:

- Do not share personal items, such as combs, hats and scarves.
- Keep hats and scarves in a coat sleeve or pocket instead of in a spot with other hats and scarves.
- Tie long hair back.
- Check your child's head every week for head lice.
- Follow regular hygiene

School Will:

- Publish this policy on the school website and regularly remind parents to check their child's head.
- Promptly notify parents of active head lice infestations in their child's class.

Head Lice Procedure:

When a teacher suspects a child has head lice, the teacher will act promptly, following the agreed procedure.

- The first step is to request the child go to the office where the child will be privately told they may have head lice.
- A staff member will inspect the child's head and if head lice are evident (live lice and/or eggs) then the parents will be phoned immediately and asked to collect their child and to treat their child's head.