

Saint Bridget School Policy for Pediculosis (Head lice)

Action Plan

1-Facilitate an accurate assessment of the problem

- A. Examine any student showing signs and symptoms of pediculosis (head lice).
- B. Document cases and provide follow-up exams.

2-Contain infestation

When a child has been identified to have the presence of active infestation (live insects) or the presence of nits (eggs), the student will be temporarily dismissed from classes. Once the student has been treated with a product specifically made to kill lice, and his or her hair has been mechanically combed with a nit comb to remove lice and nits(eggs), the child may return to school. The school nurse will examine the student upon arrival to verify effectiveness of treatment. The student will be re-examined in 7-10 days by the school nurse.

- A. In situations where two or more cases are active in the same classroom, the school reserves the right to screen entire classroom.
- B. The school nurse will screen any student at the parent/teacher request. The school nurse will make herself available to educate /instruct parents regarding how to examine their children.
- C. The school nurse will instruct students to avoid sharing hair ornaments, hats or combs.

**Head lice are wingless insects and cannot fly or hop. They are spread by crawling, head to head contact with an infected person.(NASN)*
- D. If infestation continues or becomes pandemic, further measures may be taken (ie. Storing personal items in backpacks, etc.)

3--Provide appropriate health information to families for treatment and prevention

- A. Provide education to parents regarding proper exam techniques to identify the presence of head lice on their child and to promote **evidence based** practices.
 - 1. Provide information regarding the facts and myths regarding head lice including online information links, hotlines).

2. Encourage families to regularly inspect their children at home especially after sleepovers, movies, camp, hotels stays in order to promote early detection (American academy of Pediatrics).