School Head Lice Procedure:

Purpose:

This outlines the school's procedures for preventing, identifying and managing cases of head lice to minimize classroom disruption while ensuring the health and safety and dignity of all students.

Procedure & Information:

Head lice are common in school aged children. They are not a health hazard and can occur regardless of personal hygiene. The school's approach focuses on education, prevention, and prompt notification without punishment or exclusion.

If a staff member suspects a child may have head lice, the school nurse will discreetly check the student. Checks will be performed in the heath office to protect the student's confidentiality.

The recommendation, rather than "lice letters" - reminding parents to check their students' heads on occasion, especially after coming back from breaks or sleepover parties.

Students will NOT be excluded from school for head lice. If confirmed that the student does have head lice, the health office nurse will contact parents/guardian to notify them, and it will be parental/guardian decision on whether they would like to pick their student up from school.

Parents/guardians are expected to begin treatment before the student returns the next day. Students may return to class after treatment has begun. No doctor's note is required.

The school will provide educational materials to families for prevention and treatment. Encourage students not to share combs, brushes, headphones or hats etc. Maintain regular cleaning of shared classroom items such as headphones, dress-up clothes etc.

We will avoid large-scale classroom head checks, which are not effective, no longer evidence-based practice, and can cause stigma.

Upon the student returning to school, the school nurse may recheck the student to ensure treatment and if repeated cases occur, the school will work with parents to develop a treatment plan and provide resources.

*Please note: All information related to suspected or confirmed head lice cases is confidential. Please maintain a supportive, nonjudgemental environment for affected students. Staff will treat the families with respect and avoid actions that may cause embarrassment or stigma.