



KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

POLICY STATEMENT

Section: Educational Services

- **Student Welfare**

Policy Code: ES-1.2

Policy: PEDICULOSIS IN SCHOOLS

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The Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board believes in supporting parent(s)/guardian(s) in understanding pediculosis and its impact on students, their families and school life.

The Board recognizes that head lice is not a disease or a health issue, but is defined as a social nuisance which needs to be managed in the best interest of students through the partnership of parent(s)/guardian(s), students, staff and the school community. The treatment and eradication of head lice is ultimately the parent's(s')/guardian's(s') responsibility. Students should not be kept out of school because of pediculosis.

The Board also believes that communication and education about pediculosis with students and parent(s)/guardian(s) is essential for fostering a relationship of trust and respect in dealing with the problem of head lice which may become a school issue when nits or lice are detected on students attending school. This policy was updated in consultation with local health departments.

1. Education and Prevention

1.1 The principal shall:

- 1.1.1 establish a school-based pediculosis plan of action which addresses the education, prevention, identification and treatment of head lice;
- 1.1.2 refer to Pediculosis Procedures and Resources Guidebook to develop and implement the school's pediculosis plan; and
- 1.1.3 provide students, parent(s)/guardian(s) and staff with the details of the school's pediculosis plan and other pediculosis resources.

2. Detection of Pediculosis

2.1 The principal shall:

- 2.1.1 identify the person(s) responsible for confirming the presence of head lice on a student;
- 2.1.2 examine students for the purpose of detecting or confirming the presence or absence of live head lice and/or nits;
- 2.1.3 communicate, upon confirming the presence of live head lice and/or nits, with a student's parent(s)/guardian(s), in a manner that recognizes the

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dignity and self-worth of each student and encourages an understanding of pediculosis and its effects;

2.1.4 support the student(s) and parent(s)/guardian(s) in providing head lice treatment and education, and may excuse from school, a student with head lice, for the purpose of receiving a head lice treatment, following notification to the parent(s)/guardian(s); and

2.1.5 re-check the student(s) who had head lice, upon the student(s)'s return to school, in accordance with the school's pediculosis plan, to ensure that the student(s) is free of live head lice for re-admission to class.

3. Treatment of Pediculosis

3.1 The principal shall:

3.1.1 advise the parent(s)/guardian(s) of a student with head lice, that it is the parent's(s')/guardian's(s') responsibility to treat the student(s), with the goal that the treatment renders the student(s) free of head lice;

3.1.2 encourage the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student(s) with head lice, to examine all members of the family for head lice and to provide treatment if necessary;

3.1.3 provide the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student(s) with head lice, if needed, with information and support about the prevention and treatment for head lice;

3.1.4 inform the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student(s) who has head lice, that the student(s) will be re-admitted following head lice treatment; and

3.1.5 seek parental confirmation that a second head lice treatment has occurred in 7 to 10 days.