

St. Joan Of Arc Head Lice Policy

Purpose:

To help maintain a healthy school environment and prevent the spread of head lice among students and staff.

Policy Statement

Head lice are a common occurrence in school settings. While they are not a health hazard or a sign of poor hygiene, prompt detection and treatment are necessary to prevent transmission. SJA is committed to ensuring that all cases are handled with care, confidentiality, and consistency.

Procedures:

1. Screening and Identification

If a student is suspected of having head lice, trained school personnel will discreetly check the student's hair and scalp.

If **live lice or nits (eggs)** are found, the parent/guardian will be notified, and the student will be sent home for treatment.

If a student is **suspected to have lice but no confirmation is made at school**, the student may still be sent home for evaluation by a **medical professional**.

The school may also check other students who have been in close contact with the affected student (e.g., classmates, siblings).

2. Exclusion from School

Any student found to have **live lice or nits** must be excluded from school until treatment has been completed and the student is **free of live lice and nits**.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to seek evaluation and/or treatment guidance from a healthcare professional.

A student may return to school only when one of the following is provided:

- Documentation from a medical professional stating there is **no evidence of live lice or nits, or**
- The student has been **successfully treated**, and a recheck by school personnel confirms they are **free from live lice and nits**.

3. **Return to School**

Upon returning, the student will be rechecked by the school clinic or designated staff member before being readmitted to class.

If live lice or nits are still present, the student will need to return home for additional treatment.

Parents/guardians should accompany students to the office the morning of returning to school in case a student needs to return home.

4. **Confidentiality**

The school will handle all cases with discretion and sensitivity. Student privacy will be protected, and names will not be shared with other families.

5. **Prevention and Education**

The school will provide periodic information to families about lice prevention, detection, and treatment.

Parents are encouraged to perform routine head checks at home, especially if notified of a case in their child's class.

Note:

Failure to comply with this policy may result in the student's temporary exclusion from school until all requirements are met for reentry.