

POLICY – PO425

Pediculosis Management

Area: Operations
Source: Superintendent of Education – Safe and Inclusive Schools

Approved: June 26, 2006
Revised: Feb. 10, 2020

1. Introduction

The Durham Catholic District School Board is committed to ensuring the provision of plans/programs and/or services, in conjunction with families and community partners and agencies that enable students to attend and participate in school. Pediculosis is a societal and community issue which impacts upon schools when head lice or their nits are discovered among students. Head lice are a nuisance, but rarely cause health problems. The establishment of such a co-ordinated effort is critical to managing occurrences of pediculosis while maintaining the dignity and self-worth of all students.

2. Definitions

Lice – the tiny insects that live on the scalp of human beings. Head lice can be found on the hair very close to the scalp, behind the ears, back of the neck or behind the bangs. The saliva from head lice may cause itching.

Nits – the ‘eggs’ associated with parasitic insects in this case lice, which are often attached to a hair or fibre of clothing.

Pediculosis – an infestation of the hairy parts of the body or clothing with eggs, larvae or adult lice.

3. Purpose

The purpose of this policy and its resulting administrative procedure is to provide schools with the framework to manage pediculosis.

4. Application / Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff and parents within schools under the jurisdiction of the Board.

5. Principles

5.1 The Board believes that:

- 5.1.1 prevention and response strategies are essential to the management of pediculosis;
- 5.1.2 the provision of information to parents/guardians regarding the prevention, identification and treatment of head lice and/or nits is integral to a co-ordinated pediculosis response plan.

6. Requirements

- 6.1 The Director of Education shall issue administrative procedures to support this policy and to amend them thereafter as the need arises.
- 6.2 All principals shall provide the school community, including students, parents and school personnel with information regarding prevention, identification and treatment of pediculosis in accordance with the administrative procedures attendant to this policy.
- 6.3 The identification of head lice and/or nits on a student by a parent/guardian requires that the student be treated and cleared of both lice and nits to prevent the spread to others. Parents are responsible to ensure that proper and full treatment for head lice and nits has been completed before the student returns to school.

7. Sources

- 7.1 Durham Region Health Department – Facts About Pediculosis

8. Related Policies and Administrative Procedures

- 8.1 Pediculosis Management (AP425-1)