**ONE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL HEAD LICE POLICY**

When a teacher suspects a child has head lice, the teacher will act promptly, following the agreed procedure.

A general letter/email of notification will be given to all children in the class. This letter/email also outlines ONE International School’s strategies to help avoid a head lice outbreak.

While it is easy for children to get head lice, there can be a stigma attached to it. Mindful of this, any head lice occurrence is to be managed by all parties in a way that is respectful to the sensitivities of the situation and the individual child and their family.

Parents are expected to:

* regularly inspect their child's head to detect the presence of lice or lice eggs
* notify the school if their child is affected and advise when treatment has begun

Example letter sent to all students following a report of Head Lice

 ***Dear Parents,***

***Just a quick email to inform you that a child within the school has reported that they have head lice/nits. Please, do not be alarmed as this is a common occurrence in schools. Head lice/nits are not a sign of unclean people or homes. Head lice/nits can only be spread by crawling from one person who has nits to another or sharing of personal items such as; combs, hairbrushes, head coverings, clothing, bedding and towels.***

***With the above in mind, ONE I.S. requests that all parents take the following precautions in an effort to control an outbreak.***

***1. Check your child's hair for eggs (also called nits)***

***2. If you suspect that your child has head lice/nits and are unsure of what to do, please see a health care provider to diagnose the problem and recommend the appropriate treatment.***

***3. Inform the school***

***4. If your child is diagnosed with head lice/ nits, following guidance from the Department of Health in England there are no exclusion periods for children with head lice/ nits. However, 'treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen.' Ref: Department of Health (2018) – Health Protection in schools and other childcare facilities' https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health- protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities***

***Remember that you must keep checking your child's hair for new nit's every day for at least 3 weeks after any treatment and periodically thereafter.***

***Information about head lice/nits:***

***What are they?***

*Head lice are tiny insects that live only on people's scalp and hair. They hatch from small eggs (nits) that are firmly attached to the individual hairs near the scalp and cannot be easily moved up or down the hair(as can specks of dandruff). Nits may be found throughout the hair but most often located at the back of the scalp near the neck and behind the ears. The eggs hatch in 6-10days, with new lice reaching adulthood about 2-3weeks later. The lice live by biting and sucking blood from the scalp. Lice can survive 1-2days away from the scalp. Until a person with head lice is treated, they can transmit them to others.*

***How should you check for head lice/nits?***

*You probably won’t see the lice, only the eggs. These are tiny, pearl-grey, oval- shaped specks attached to the hair near the scalp. Look carefully in natural light. Search for nits at the back of the neck, behind the ears and at the top of the head.*

***Thank you for your time and consideration with regards to this matter and should you require any further information or have any suggestions please feel free to contact us.***