

## **PEDICULOSIS POLICY**

The Pediculosis (head lice) policy for School Union 38 is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner. The School Nurse, as student advocate and health expert, will provide education and guidance to the school community regarding “best practices” of head lice management.

Conway, Deerfield, Sunderland and Whately Elementary Schools in agreement with the Harvard School of Public Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Association of School Nurses recognizes that no disease process is associated with head lice, and under the best practice, screening in schools does little to reduce the incidence of head lice. Rather, it is most important that the parents regularly inspect their child for head lice at home.

While parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice, the school community will work with families in a cooperative and collaborative manner so they can manage head lice effectively.

### **Head Lice Control Practices**

- Information regarding the prevention, identification and treatment of head lice will be sent to all parents/guardians at the start of the school year.
- Routine screenings of children’s heads by the parent/guardian will be strongly encouraged for early identification of pediculosis infestation.
- Active infestation will be defined as the presence of live lice or nits that are ¼ inch or less from the scalp. Parents/guardians of those students identified will be notified and will be asked take their child(ren) home to be treated.
- Instructions regarding safe, effective treatment of pediculosis will be given to the parent or guardian. Head lice treatment can be accomplished overnight, allowing the student to come back the following day.
- It is the parent/guardian’s responsibility to treat students at home, and to accompany them to school the next day.
- Students will be examined by the school nurse and readmitted when no *active infestation* is present. If a student is found to still have an *active infestation*, the parent will take the student home for further treatment.
- Every effort will be made by the school nurse to screen suspected contacts.
- A letter will be sent home to the entire class asking all parents/guardians to carefully recheck their child at home as well.
- Staff will maintain the privacy of students that are identified as having head lice at all times.