

LICE POLICY

The practice of the German International School Washington D.C. (GISW) is a “No Nit Policy”, which is supported and encouraged by the *National Pediculosis Association (NPA)*, and recommended as the public health standard. *“The Spirit of the No Nit Policy is to minimize head lice infestations as a public health problem and to keep children in school lice and nit free.” (NPA)*

At the GISW we must take all reasonable measures to help ensure that uninfested children will be safeguarded while infested children will be cared for with sensitivity. Vigilant screening of children for head lice and nits plays a pivotal role in lice management. Early detection offers the best opportunity to remove head lice and nits. This directive is consistent with traditional preventative medical and communicable disease control methods.

At the GISW, when a child is found to have head lice or nits in Preschool, SEL, Elementary School or Upper School, the following processes will be implemented:

- The child will be taken to the school nurse or other school official who has been trained, to confirm that the child indeed has lice and/or nits.
- The school nurse or other trained school official will notify the parent or guardian to pick up the child from school. Instructions regarding the treatment of lice/nits will be given to the parent or guardian at the time of pick-up.
- After the child has been successfully treated (no lice present) and all nits have been removed, the school nurse or other trained school official will examine the child upon return to school to confirm that treatment was successful. The child should be brought to the nurse at 8:00am before school starts to be inspected and cleared to go to class. If nits are present upon screening or re-screening, the child is dismissed for follow-up.
- Parents of children in a class where a case of head lice or nits has been detected will be notified promptly and encouraged to check their own children for the same.

The GISW “No Nit Policy” prevents continuing infestations caused by the surviving and hatching of nits and eliminates confusion as to whether the eggs are old or a new infestation has occurred. It maximizes the opportunity to eliminate repeated chemical treatments aimed at killing head lice that hatch from remaining viable nits. It also protects children from ridicule and rejection. As part of this policy, **please utilize the GISW Head Lice Fact Sheet, outlining the treatment procedures for lice and nits.**