Goldwood Primary School

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Dr. Carol Rosiak, Principal

Although pediculosis, or head lice, are a common problem and prevalent among elementary age children, we know that it is upsetting when you get the call that your child has head lice. There are 6 to 12 million cases occurring each year among children 2 to 11 in the United States[1]. This means that most children will be exposed to the possibility of getting lice at some point in their early school years. Head lice can occur at home, at school or in the community.

The Rocky River City School District works closely with the County Board of Health to develop policies and procedures that help minimize the transmission of head lice. We follow the protocol below when head lice are discovered at school.

1. Parents are immediately notified and must make arrangements to pick up their student.
2. Upon parent/guardian arrival, treatment is discussed. Also at this time, parents/guardians are notified that their child cannot re-enter the classroom until treatment is completed, and the school nurse clears the child as nit-free.
3. Notification letters are sent home to all families in the classroom. Please note student names are not shared.
4. Children in the classroom are screened by the school nurse to rule out any additional cases of head lice.
5. Our classrooms are cleaned daily at Goldwood. However, when a particular classroom is identified as having several cases of head lice, the carpets are cleaned as well. *Head lice can only live for a few hours off the head. Additionally, the feet of a louse are designed to grasp on the hair shafts, not inanimate objects. Cleaning desk tops and lockers is good practice; it does not, however, prevent lice transmission. Head lice are most commonly transmitted by direct head to head contact.

It is imperative that the school and parents work closely together. We encourage our parents to check their children frequently and treat any infestation prior to sending the child to school.

For more information please follow the link to read an article written by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Head Lice: What Parents Need to Know https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/from-insects-animals/Pages/Signs-of-Lice.aspx

If you have any questions about head lice, please contact the school nurse at 440-356-6720.

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Parasites-Lice-Head Lice Frequently Asked Questions. http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/gen_info/faqs.html