

## Green School's newly adopted 'No Nits Policy'

Maintaining high health standards is of paramount importance here at Green School. One of the areas in which we are working to improve the current situation with regard to health and hygiene is the implementation of consistent guidelines for the control of head lice in the community.

Vigilant screenings and removal of head lice and nits (eggs) play a pivotal role in their control. As the primary responsibility for the health and hygiene of our children begins in the home, we encourage each family in the community to do its part at home with routine screening, early detection, and thorough removal of lice and nits following the guidelines recommended on the websites listed below. Working together to control head lice provides necessary reassurance to those who have successfully treated an infestation that everything possible is being done to prevent new outbreaks when children return to classes where close contact is inevitable.

With our new 'No Nits Policy', we are committed to keeping our classrooms free of head lice, and to achieve this aim, a person to assist the School Nurse has been engaged to work specifically with the detection and control of head lice in the community. To ensure the success of this program, we are implementing a program for natural treatment and manual removal of all live lice and eggs (nits) in the First Aid Clinic here on campus. As evidence suggests that repeated exposure to pesticidal products puts children at risk and can be potentially harmful for children with certain pre-existing medical conditions and families with pregnant or nursing mothers, manual removal of lice and nits has been chosen as a safe alternative.

In order to achieve a lice-free environment here at Green School, routine screenings for early detection and treatment will be done by the school nurse's office to check for head lice and nits.

1. If they are detected on your child, the nurse will inform you via SMS/phone call and email and offer you the following options:
  - a) they may return home for treatment at that time until the lice have been removed completely
  - OR
  - b) a head lice removal service in the clinic for Rp50.000. If you choose not to take advantage of this service, you will be asked to arrange for them to be picked up and taken home for treatment to ensure the head lice are removed before they are allowed to return to class. Going back into the classroom while infested does not promote the eradication of head lice in the community and they will be kept in the First Aid Clinic area until they are picked up.
2. The school nurse will do a follow-up check the next morning to ensure there are no remaining lice.
  - If one or two live lice are found, we may remove them, either manually or by combing, send them to class, and inform you again via email.
  - If your child is found to have many lice during the follow-up check,
    - a) we will request that they return home until the lice have been removed completely
    - OR
    - b) offer a head lice removal service in the clinic for Rp50.000. If you choose not to pay for this service, you will be asked to return home with your child and ensure the head lice are removed before they are allowed to return to class.

\*As these checks will be done early, if you have received a phone call or email the day before, we would advise that you or your driver remain at school until your child has been cleared to return to class or send with your child Rp50.000 to cover the cost of the treatment at school. Please note that many salons in Bali also offer a head cleaning service to remove nits and lice should you prefer to do treatments outside of school.

While absence from school is a loss of educational opportunity and a difficulty for parents, especially considering the logistical challenges here in Bali, readmitting an infested child into the classroom is not the solution. A policy for head lice must consider not only the infested child, but also his or her peers who have already been successfully deloused or who have not yet been infested.

All this considered, the 'No Nit Policy' remains a practical and sensible approach that sets the standard to serve and protect all the children in the group. To increase the effectiveness of this policy, we will enforce it across the school population throughout the year, with special attention during the weeks that children return to school after breaks. Simple detection and prevention practices in each household can help significantly to prevent the spread of lice to other students.

If you wish to find more information on prevention and removal of head lice guidelines, please check out the following websites: <http://www.headlice.org>, <http://www.killnits.com> or [www.headlice.co.uk](http://www.headlice.co.uk).

We thank you for your cooperation on this and appreciate any feedback you may have. By working together, we can improve the situation and keep our kids lice free, nit free and in school.