

Whilst parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice our school community will work in a cooperative and collaborative manner to assist all families to manage head lice effectively.

PURPOSE:

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for some parents, teachers and children. This school policy is intended to outline roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.

1. IMPLEMENTATION

1.1.1 The school will:

- Respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively, notifying parents of the child with head lice immediately or as soon as practicable and inform the families of the students in the class, by a letter home.
- Ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- Ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
- ensure that any person trained by the school, to undertake 'head lice inspections' will adhere to the school policy and latest Department of Human Services information and Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001.
- Only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given prior consent.
- Develop a generic/blanket consent form which parents sign at enrolment of a student.
- Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice check.
- Help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality when conducting head lice inspections, and give a letter to all the children involved.
- Include teachers and school staff in inspection.

Reference to DET Guidelines and School Head Lice Kit

Note 1: Principal has the overall responsibility to exclude a student from school.

Note 2: The presence of eggs in the hair is not a cause for exclusion. There is no requirement for a general practitioner or local council to issue a clearance certificate in order for the child to return to school.

1.2 It is the expectation of parents/carers and families attending this school that:

- For detection and treatment of head lice, children's hair will be checked for head lice or eggs regularly at home, recommendations are once per week, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Your child does not attend school with untreated head lice until the **day after** treatment has commenced, as set out in the *Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, School Exclusion Table*.

Head Lice Policy

- Regular inspection of all household members followed by treatment if head lice or eggs are detected.
- Parents/carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment has commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001).
- Students who are able to tie their hair back are encouraged to do so.
- Safe and recommended practices are used to treat head lice.
- They act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.
- updated information to the school is given when:
 - Guardianship or custody arrangements change for the student
 - Parents/guardians no longer wish to consent to inspection.

Ratified by School Council:	
Signature School Council President	
Next Review Date:	- -

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