

Head Lice

POLICY

Rationale:

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 preventing head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner. Whilst parents have the main 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.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice and or eggs quickly and effectively.
- To ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice treatment.
- To ensure parent managed head lice program is delivered within the guidelines

Implementation:

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

- Check your children's hair for head lice weekly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Not allow your child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009).
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- Tie your child's hair back if it is shoulder length or longer.
- Treat head lice safely and as recommended.
- Notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they can check their children and treat if necessary.
- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community around issues of head lice.
- All parent/careers are to sign a Parent consent form accepting the conditions of the school's head lice procedure.
- To support parents/carers and the broader school community to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will:
- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the finding, treating and controlling head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year or more frequently if required.
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff attending the school.
- Include information and updates in school newsletters.
- Include annual head lice updates for staff in service programs.

- Provide practical advice and maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming families who are finding it hard to control head lice. Access community educational resources and support, such as primary school nurses, community health centres and local government.
- Follow the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge.
- Only exclude children from school with live insects.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Encourage children to learn about head lice to help reduce stigma or bullying.

Parent managed head lice program:

The Parent-managed head lice program aims to involve all members of the local community, rather than relying on a single service provider.

The program involves parents donating some time to help screen children for head lice. This can vary from weekly (when high prevalence of infections are present) to once or twice a term (when the prevalence is low

For children to be checked by volunteer parents, a consent form must be signed and returned to the school. Volunteer parents must also sign a confidentiality agreement with the school to ensure privacy is maintained for the child and their families. Some schools may also require a working with children check for volunteers.

- Ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake head lice inspections will adhere to the school policy and Department of Health information.
- Parents will only inspect the heads of children whose parents have given consent.
- Parents will Respect the wishes of parents/families who elect not to participate in a school head lice check.
- Parents will give a letter to all children involved in head lice inspections to help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality.

Evaluation:

* This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three year review cycle.

Last reviewed 12/06/2018

HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT SHEET

It has been brought our attention by our staff at school for the presence of head lice.
The results are:

- No lice or eggs detected.
- Dead eggs were found.
- Live eggs were found.
- Live lice were found.

Therefore, the following action is required:

- No action required.
- Child's hair must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live lice before the child is returned to school.

Please Note: All children who are found to have live eggs will be rechecked by staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Darlene Cameron
Principal

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HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to the classroom teacher at the same time that your child returns.

I have treated my child's head in a manner that has killed or removed the live lice.

I would like to be shown how the Department of Human Services recommends removal of eggs and lice using hair conditioner and a fine toothed comb.

Child's Name:..... Parent Signature:.....
Child's Class:.....