



Head Lice Policy

Rationale:

Head lice continue to cause concern and frustration for parents, teachers and students. The 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.

Head lice (pediculosis) are tiny insects that live on the human scalp where they feed and breed. Probably between 2-3% of primary school children are infested at any one time*. While they do not carry or transmit disease, they are a cause of head itch and scratching, which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore, they need to be controlled.

Aims:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively.
- To ensure effective processes for treating head lice are well known and consistently followed.
- To ensure that parents and guardians are well informed about head lice and their treatment.

Implementation:

School will:

- Develop a head lice policy for the school.
- Provide information and guidelines for performing head lice screening within the school grounds (eg: infection control and confidentiality), managing infected students when identified, and notifying parents of screening results.
- Inform and educate parents and students via the newsletter, assemblies, classrooms.
- Include information about head lice management in orientation and transition programs for new families/staff.
- Provide practical advice and 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 community and local government.
- Follow the recommendations of School Exclusion Policy of the public health and Wellbeing regulations 2009 and the responsibility 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.

Parents will:

- Support the school's head lice policy including class checks of children's hair by a bank of trained parents.
- Check your children's hair for head lice weekly, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing direction method.
- Not allow your child to attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with the Public health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009)



- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary.
- If your child's hair is touching their collar it must be tied back.
- Treat head lice safely and as recommended.
- Notify the parents or carers of your child's friends so they can check their children as 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 community around the issues of head lice.

Students will:

- Maintain a sympathetic attitude and avoid stigmatising or blaming friends who are finding it hard to control head lice.
- Allow their parent to check their hair weekly.
- Wear hair up if it is longer than shoulder length.
- Be diligent in informing their parents if they feel they have head lice.
- Listen to information the school is showing about head lice.
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school community around the issues of head lice.

Date of next review: 25/3/2021