

HEAD LICE POLICY



Purpose:

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

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

This school policy draws on information obtained from the Information Pamphlet and Management Guidelines '*Scratching for Answers?*' a publication of the Department of Human Services.

Aims:

- To minimize the outbreak of head lice
- To outline the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the detection, treatment and control of head lice.
- To document effective management and treatment strategies that will contain the spread of head lice throughout the school.

Implementation:

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

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a regular basis, at home using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method.
- Children do not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001).
- All household members are regularly inspected for head lice and treated if necessary.
- The school will be notified if children are found to have live lice and advised when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001).
- Children with long hair are encouraged to attend school with hair tied back.
- Use only safe and recommended practices are used to treat head lice.
- A sympathetic attitude will be maintained to avoid stigmatizing / blaming families who are experiencing difficulty with control measures.
- We will act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with members of the school and broader community especially around issues of head lice.
- A signed consent form allowing the school to regularly check for head lice when a report has been made is included in the enrolment pack provided to parents.
- Where the parent does not give consent for the school to check for head lice they will be required to travel to school to undertake that check when notified by the school.

To support parents/carers and families to achieve a consistent, collaborative approach to head lice management the school will undertake to:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detection, treatment and control of head lice to parents and staff at the beginning of the year and more frequently if required.

Respect, Integrity, Self-resilience, Excellence

- Include information about head lice management in school publications such as the school's Information booklet and newsletter.
- Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001. Excluding a child from the school rests with the principal or person in charge and only children with live lice will be excluded from school until the day after treatment has commenced.
- Notify parents in writing when there has been a report of head lice in their child's class.
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced
- Act responsibly and respectfully when dealing with reported cases of head lice.
- Ensure that any person employed by the school or volunteering to undertake 'head lice inspections' is appropriately trained and 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
- Include teachers and school staff in inspection.
- Inspecting officers will notify the families of students inspected for head lice in writing.
- Inspecting officers, where not permitted to check a student's head for suspected head lice must contact the parent and ensure that they travel to school to undertake the inspection themselves.

Evaluation:

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

| <u>Ratification Date</u> | <u>Review Date</u> | <u>Policy No.</u> | <u>Version No.</u> | <u>Date Produced</u> |
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