

Rationale:

- 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:

- Anyone can catch head lice. Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and may also be spread by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- While it is the parents who have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children, the school will assist by offering up-to-date information, by offering a screening process, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- The school principal will ensure all head lice inspections are carried out by parents in accordance with the Parent Managed Head Lice Program, who will then be authorised to carry out visual and physical checks of students heads for head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be inspected by the Parent Managed Head Lice Team for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be inspected, however, all students may be visually checked.
- All children inspected will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the inspection (see Form2 below).
- Consistent with Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001, the Principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live lice are informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school until appropriate treatment has commenced.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children are asked to present the signed declaration on Form2 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced.
- The principal will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of head lice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy infestations.

Evaluation:

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

This policy was last ratified by School Council in

April 2019



HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS - CONSENT FORM

Form1

Head lice are common amongst children, and remain the parent's responsibility to manage. In support of parents, the school may organise head lice inspections of students throughout the year.

The school is aware that this can be a sensitive issue and is committed to maintaining student confidentiality and avoiding potential embarrassment.

Before any inspections are conducted staff will explain to all students what is being done and why, and it will be emphasised to students that the presence of head lice in their hair does not mean that their hair is less clean or well kept than anyone else's. It will also be pointed out that head lice can be itchy and annoying and if you know you have got them, you can do something about it.

Trained Parents from our school community will conduct the inspection of students.

The person conducting the inspections will physically search through each student's hair to see if any lice or eggs are present.

In cases where head lice are found, the person inspecting the student will inform the Principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and inform parents and/or make notification by phone.

Please note that health regulations require that where a child has head lice, that child is not to return to school until appropriate treatment has commenced.

Parent's/Guardian's Full Name:

Address: Postcode:

Name(s) of Child/Children attending the school:

Year Level:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school's Parent Managed Head Lice Inspection Program for this year.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date:

PLEASE NOTE: All students may be visually checked (no touching) for head lice by staff members irrespective of whether or not this consent form for a physical inspection is completed and returned.

Your child was checked today by the Parent Managed Head Lice Inspection Team at school for the presence of head lice. This was a:

- Visual Check (observation without physical contact)
 Inspection (physical search of the child's head and hair)

The results of the check 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 re-checked during the next inspection program.

Regards

Kerri-Ann Harris
Principal

.....

HEAD LICE TREATMENT REPLY SLIP

If your child has been detected with live lice, this reply slip must be returned to school 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.

The treatment used was:.....

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