



HEADLICE

Policy

AIM:

- To respond to reports of head lice quickly and effectively and to ensure that an effective process for treating head lice is well known and consistently followed.

GUIDELINES:

1. The School community will be regularly informed of the following facts relating to head lice:
 - 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 with head lice.
 - While head lice 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.
 - 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.
2. While it is 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. (Available from - www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice/)
3. The school will organise to have at least one staff member trained in the detection of head lice.
4. Trained / Approved head lice detection personnel will consult with the classroom teacher and the Principal / Assistant Principal, prior to commencing the detection and / or treatment of Head Lice.
5. The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened by trained personnel for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be checked.
6. All children screened will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the screening, as well as advice on the latest head lice information.
7. 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 evidence is provided of appropriate treatment having been applied.
8. The Principal or nominee will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
9. Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must declare, either verbally or in writing that appropriate treatment has commenced.
10. 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 outbreaks.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the Four Year School Policy Review process.

This policy was last ratified by School Council in....

May 2009