



Policy: **HEADLICE**

Approved at School Council Meeting: 2018

Review: 2020

Rationale:

- This school policy outlines roles, responsibilities and expectations of the school community to assist with treating and controlling head lice in a consistent and coordinated manner.
- Whilst parents have the primary 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.

Implementation

- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice, are to report their concerns to the Principal/Business Manager who will organise the authorised officers to carry out the necessary inspections.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the Principal/Business Manager will ensure that the parents of any infected child are contacted as soon as possible and informed that their child is to be excluded from attending school in accordance with the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations until the children have been treated.
- The Principal/Business Manager will also provide parents of infected children with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- The Principal/Business Manager will ensure that information relating to the prevention and eradication of headlice appears throughout the year in the school newsletter, particularly at times of heavy outbreaks.

Expectation of parents/carers and families attending this school

- Children's hair will be checked for head lice on a weekly basis, at home, using the recommended conditioner/combing detection method;
- That your child does not attend school with untreated head lice (in accordance with Health Infectious Diseases Regulations 2001);
- Regularly inspect all household members and then treat them if necessary;
- Parents/Carers will notify the school if their child is found to have live lice and advise when appropriate treatment was commenced (in accordance with Health Infectious Disease Regulations 2001);
- Children with long hair (below shoulders) will attend school with hair tied back.

The School will:

- Distribute up to date and accurate information on the detecting, treatment and control of 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;

- Abide by the recommendations of the School Exclusion Policy of the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 in that the responsibility to exclude a child from the school rests with the Principal or person in charge, and
- Only exclude children from school with live insects;
- Contact parent for immediate pick up and treatment before returning to school;
- Accept the advice of parents that appropriate treatment has commenced.

Inspection Programs consideration

- Ensure that any person employed by the school, or volunteering, to undertake 'head lice inspections' 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;
- A generic/blanket consent form which parents sign at enrolment will be used.
- To help reduce the stigma and maintain confidentiality when conducting head lice inspections a letter will be given to all the children involved.