



# HEAD LICE

## POLICY

### **PURPOSE:**

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 the most common cause of head itch and scratching which may lead to infection and swollen lymph glands; therefore they need to be eradicated. Anyone can catch head lice.

Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person by head to head contact, and by the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and head gear such as hats.

### **GUIDELINES**

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

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

- 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.
- The school will attempt to organise to have trained personnel inspect students once a term to assist in the detection of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened by our trained personnel for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have signed the permission form will be checked.
- All children screened will be provided with a report indicating to parents the results of the screening (see Form 1 below), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice. Parents of other students in the affected class will be alerted if necessary (note on Common).
- 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.
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must present the signed declaration on Form 1 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. All excluded children to undergo another inspection from trained personnel before recommencing school.
- 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 school's three-year review cycle.

This policy is to be included in the enrolment pack for all new students



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### HEAD LICE CHECK REPORT SHEET

Your child was checked today by our trained staff at school for the presence of head lice.

The results of the check are:

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No lice or eggs detected.

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Dead eggs were found.

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Live eggs were found.

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Live lice were found.

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Therefore the following action is required:-

No action required.

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Child's hair must be treated with a method that has killed or removed live lice before the child is returned to school.

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**Please Note:** All children who are found to have live eggs will be re-checked by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Scott Phillips

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.

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I would like to be shown how the Dept of Human Services recommends removal of eggs and lice using hair conditioner and a fine toothed comb.

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

Child's Class:.....