

# HEAD LICE

## POLICY

### **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 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:**

- Head lice are not a threat to health and they do not spread other infections. They can be managed with communication and cooperation between parents and the school.
- There is no guaranteed method for the prevention of head lice, regular hair checks and detecting head lice early is the best way to avoid an outbreak.
- Anyone can contract head lice.
- Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They spread from person to person through head-to-head contact, and the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes and hats.
- Head lice can move onto items such as hats, combs, helmets, hair ties and other surfaces, but must return to a human head within 24 hours to survive.
- Parents have the primary responsibility for the detection and treatment of head lice on their children. The school assists by offering information, conducting screenings and by alerting parents of head lice when detected.
- The school has volunteer parents and staff members trained in the detection of head lice.
- The school will ask parents to sign a permission form allowing their children to be screened for the presence of head lice. Only children whose parents have returned the permission form will be checked (see Form1 below).
- All children screened will be provided with a confidential report indicating to parents the results of the screening (see Form2 below), as well as advice on the latest information regarding head lice.
- Consistent with Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2009, the principal will ensure that the parents of any child found to have live head lice are informed that their child cannot attend school until appropriate treatment has commenced and been confirmed
- The principal will also provide parents of children found to have live lice with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Upon returning to school, parents of children found with head lice must present the signed declaration on Form 2 indicating that appropriate treatment has commenced. Upon their return children must undergo a further head lice inspection.
- It is recommended that children be retreated after 5 or 6 days.

### **Evaluation:**

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

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

March 2021

# HEAD LICE INSPECTIONS – CONSENT FORM

Throughout the year, the school will be arranging head lice inspections of students.

The management of head lice works best when all children are involved in our screening program.

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

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 staff from our school 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 student’s class teacher and the principal. The school will send a written notice home with the child and provide parents with comprehensive advice about the use of safe treatment practices which do not place children’s health at risk.

Please note that the law requires that where a child has head lice, that child should not 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:

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I hereby give my consent for the above-named children to participate in the school’s head lice inspection program.

Signature of Parent/Guardian ..... Date: .....

# 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:

- 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 by trained staff soon after returning to school to ensure the infestation has been effectively treated.

Regards

Lee Gibbons  
Principal

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## 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.

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

Child's Class:.....