

Policy Document

HEAD LICE_v1.0

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:

- Anyone can catch head lice.
- Head lice cannot fly, hop or jump. They are 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 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, and by alerting parents of lice when detected.
- 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 inform parents that children with head lice are required under the Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 2001 to be excluded from school until treatment has commenced. A child with head lice can be treated one evening and return to school the next day, even if there are still some eggs present.
- The Principal will provide a link to a Head Lice Fact Sheet (http://www.health.wa.gov.au/docreg/Education/Diseases/Communicable/Parasitic/HP0149_head_lice_FS.pdf) to parents in the newsletter twice a year.
- Upon their return to school, parents of excluded children must notify the school 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 outbreaks.
- Students with shoulder length hair or longer are required to tie their hair back.

Evaluation:

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

Ratification

Ratified by School Council: 18-June-2014

School Council President: Glen Noble

Principal: Anne McPhee