

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 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 headgear such as hats.

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:

- Teachers or staff members suspecting that a child has head lice are to report their concerns to Principal/Assistant Principal who will organize the authorized officers (School Council approved personnel trained by authorised health professionals) to carry out the necessary inspections.
- Upon positive identification of head lice, the principal will ensure that the parents of any infected child are provided with written notification at the end of that day and informed that their child is to be treated in accordance with Education Department guidelines.
www.health.vic.gov.au/headlice
- When a parent reports a case of head lice all students in that class will be notified by letter and information about detection and treatment. If parents report a case to a teacher they are requested to notify the School Office immediately.
- The principal will also provide parents of infected children with information about head lice treatment and prevention.
- Children are able to return to school the day after appropriate treatment has been undertaken.
- 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.
- Parental consent for head lice checks will be obtained via the student enrolment form.

Evaluation:

- This policy will be reviewed in 2014